



The United States Constitution and More.

Next

Table of Content

Lesson 1

Quiz



Background: The Pilgrims

Background: The American Revolution

The Declaration of Independence

Background: The 13 Original Colonies

Lesson 2

Quiz



Intro to the U.S. Constitution / Principles and powers

Writing the Constitution

The Great Compromise / Overview of the Constitution

The Preamble

Lesson 3

Quiz



Article I - U.S. Constitution-Congress / Legislative Branch

Powers forbidden to Congress

The United States Senate

The House of Representatives

Separation of powers under Articles I, II, and III

Lesson 4

Articles II-VII - U.S. Constitution / Article II-
Executive Branch

Next

Table of Content

Lesson 4

Quiz



Executive Branch Agencies

Electing the President / The Cabinet

Mount Rushmore – Presidents' portal

Article III - The Judicial Branch

The Supreme Court and judicial review / Trials and treason

Lesson 5

Quiz



The Supreme Court - Justices

Articles IV-V

Articles VI-VII

Parts of the Constitution Reviewed: The Articles (7)

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution / The Bill of Rights

Amendments I - V

Amendments VI - X

Amendments XI - XVIII

Amendments XIX- XXVII

Lesson 6

Quiz



Next

Table of Content

Lesson 7

Quiz



The U.S. Flag Code

When to display the flag / How to display the flag

Respect for the flag

The Star Spangled Banner

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Illinois Constitution / Introduction

The Preamble

Article I: The Bill of Rights / Article II: The Powers of the State / Article III: Suffrage and Elections

Article IV: The Legislature

Legislative Information / Illinois State Senators /

Illinois State Representatives

Article V: The Executive Department

Duties of Illinois elected executive officials

Article VI: The Judicial Department

Lesson 8

Quiz



Next

Table of Content



The Revolutionary War

Flags of The States

King George III of England

Samuel Adams

Benedict Arnold

Benjamin Franklin

Alexander Hamilton

John Hancock

Patrick Henry

John Paul Jones

Francis Scott Key

Thomas Paine

Betsy Ross

Presidents of The United States

Presidents Quiz 1 and 2



The Revolutionary War



Next

LESSON 1: Background: The Pilgrims

The Pilgrims were one of the first groups to come to America and settle. They came to the New World to find religious freedom, which they didn't have in England. They came on a ship called the Mayflower and they arrived on December 21st, 1620 in Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were not prepared for their first cold, snowy winter in America. They didn't have enough food, but the Native Americans gave them food, and in the spring they showed them how to grow corn. The Indians had always celebrated a harvest festival at the end of the summer, and the Pilgrims adopted this celebration and called it "Thanksgiving." They thanked God for providing them with enough food to live through the next winter. Thanksgiving is a National Holiday.



Settlements were started along the East Coast of the America. By 1776 there were 13 English colonies. These colonies, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island, became the 13 original states of the United States of America.

Next



LESSON 1: Background: The American Revolution



By the middle of the 18th century, differences in life, thought, and interests had developed between the mother country and the growing colonies. Local political institutions and practice diverged significantly from English ways, while social customs, religious beliefs, and economic interests added to the potential sources of conflict. The British government, like other imperial powers in the 18th century, favored a policy of [mercantilism](#); the [Navigation Acts](#) were intended to regulate commerce in the British interest. These were only loosely enforced, however, and the colonies were by and large allowed to develop freely with little interference from England. Conditions changed abruptly in 1763. The [Treaty of Paris](#) in that year ended [the French and Indian Wars](#) and removed a long-standing threat to the colonies. At the same time the ministry (1763-65) of [George Grenville](#) in Great Britain undertook a new colonial policy intended to tighten political control over the colonies and to make them pay for their defense and return revenue to the mother country. The tax [levied](#) on [molasses and sugar in 1764](#) caused some consternation among New England merchants and makers of rum; the tax itself was smaller than the one already on the books, but the promise of stringent enforcement was novel and ominous.



Next



Background: The American Revolution

It was the [Stamp Act](#), passed by the British [Parliament](#) in 1765, with its direct demand for revenue that roused a violent colonial outcry, which was spearheaded by the Northern merchants, lawyers, and newspaper publishers who were directly affected. Everywhere leaders such as [Samuel Adams](#) and [Patrick Henry](#) denounced the act with eloquence, societies called the [Sons of Liberty](#) were formed, and the Stamp Act Congress was called to protest that Parliament was violating the rights of trueborn Englishmen in taxing the colonials, who were not directly represented in the supreme legislature. The threat of boycott and refusal to import English goods supported the colonial clamor. Parliament repealed (1766) the Stamp Act but passed an act formally declaring its right to tax the colonies. The incident was closed, but a barb remained to wound American feelings. Colonial political theorists—not only radicals such as Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, [Josiah Quincy](#) (1744-75), and [Alexander M c Dougall](#) but also moderates such as John Dickinson, [John Adams](#), and [Benjamin Franklin](#)—asserted that [taxation without representation](#) was [tyranny](#). The teachings of 18th-century French philosophers and continental writers on law, such as Emmerich de Vattel, as well as the theories of John Locke, were implicit in the colonial arguments based on the theory of natural rights. The colonials claimed that Parliament had the sovereign power to legislate in the interest of the entire British Empire, but that it could only tax those actually represented in Parliament.



Background: The American Revolution

Trouble flared when the Chatham ministry adopted (1767) the [Townshend Acts](#), which taxed numerous imports; care was taken to levy only an external or indirect tax in the hope that the colonials would accept this. But this indirect tax was challenged too, and although the duties were not heavy, the principle was attacked. Incidents came in interrupted sequence to make feeling run higher and higher: the [seizure](#) of a ship belonging to [John Hancock](#) in 1768; the bloodshed of the [Boston Massacre](#) in 1770; the burning of [H. M. S. Gaspee](#) in 1772; [the Boston Tea Party](#) in 1770.

The Boston Massacre in 1770



The Boston Tea Party in 1770.



Background: The American Revolution

By the time the Second Continental Congress met to discuss stronger action for independence, tensions in the American colonies ran very high. Colonists who did not wish to remain British subjects declared themselves "[Patriots](#)" -- those who remained faithful to England called themselves "[Loyalists](#)." The Revolutionary War broke out on April 19, 1775, at the Battle of Lexington and Concord. On the morning of April 19, 1775, shots had been exchanged by colonials and British soldiers, men had been killed, and a [revolution](#) had begun. On the very day (May 10, 1775) that [the Second Continental Congress](#) met, [Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys](#), together with a force under [Benedict Arnold](#), took Fort Ticonderoga from the British, and two days later Seth Warner captured Crown Point. Boston was under British siege, and before that siege was climaxed by the costly British victory usually called [the battle of Bunker Hill](#) (June 17, 1775) the Congress had chosen (June 15, 1775) [George Washington](#) as commander in chief of the Continental armed forces.





Battles of Lexington and Concord

Fighting between American colonial armies and the English army began in 1775. In June of 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, stating that each colony had a right to be independent from England. On July 4th, 1776 the 2nd Continental Congress officially adopted the Declaration of Independence. We remember the 4th of July as America's birthday and call it Independence Day.



Yorktown campaign



Next

LESSON 1: The Declaration of Independence



The Declaration of Independence has five parts. They are the Preamble, the Statement of Human Rights, Charges Against Human Rights, Charges Against the King and Parliament, and the Statement of Separation and Signatures. The main purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to announce the colonies' separation from England. By adopting the Declaration of Independence, the principles that were the foundation for seeking independence were also expressed. The Declaration of Independence states that all men are created equal and are entitled to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." These ideas would be expressed again in the new republic's Constitution. These ideas form the basis of our beliefs about the role of our government in our lives today.

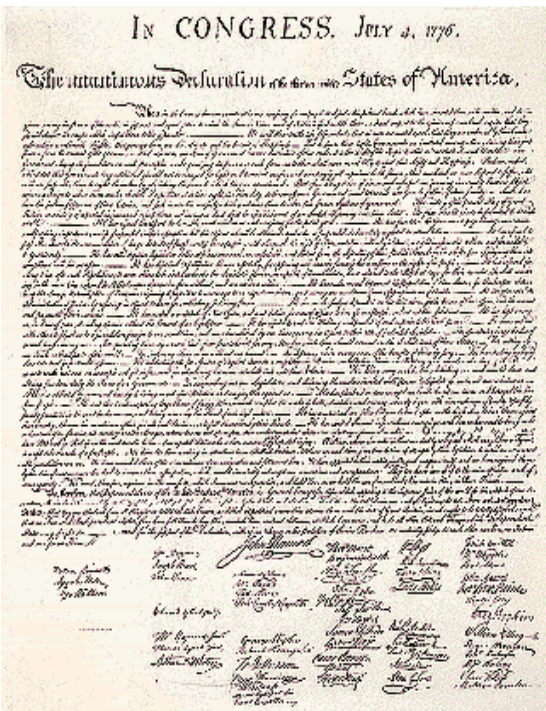


Next

LESSON 1: The Declaration of Independence



Thomas Jefferson wrote most of the Declaration of Independence in the early summer of 1776. Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration. The committee presented the document to the Congress after making a few corrections. Following a few more changes, Thomas Jefferson's work was approved. Church bells rang out in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted and our nation was officially born. Its purpose was to announce that the 13 English colonies in North America had decided to become independent of England and start their own, new country. Jefferson used ideas about people and governments that were new in the 1600s and 1700s. One important idea stated and a basic belief in the Declaration of Independence is that "all men are created equal." Jefferson wrote that God gave rights to people--"Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness"-- and that no one or no government should be able to take those rights away. Another idea is that a government gets its power from the people. This principle is called popular sovereignty. The Declaration of Independence states that a government gets or derives its power from the people it rules. If the government misuses its power, the people have the right to form a new government.



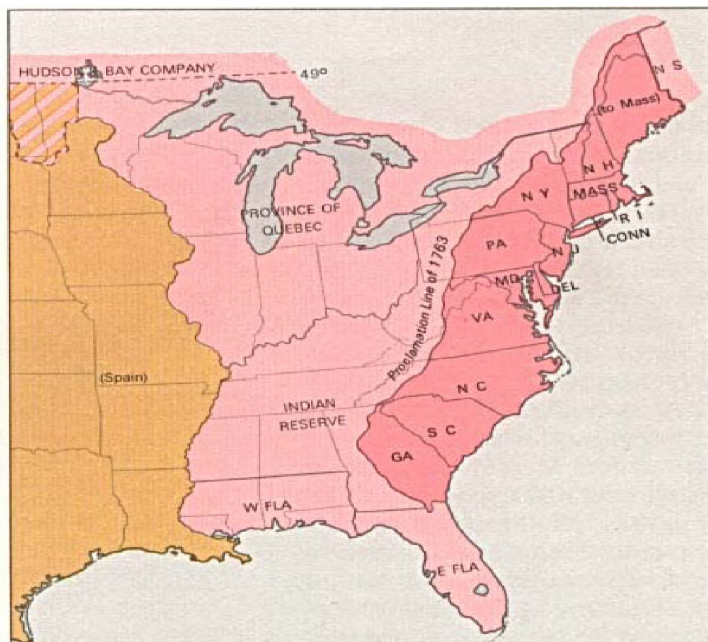
By the middle of the 1700s, English colonists living in America had set up their own governments in towns and colonies. They usually made their own laws and chose the people they wanted to represent them. In 1760, [King George III](#) became the ruler of Great Britain and decided to take more control of the colonies. King George and the English Parliament passed taxes and laws that the colonists hated and felt were unfair.

In 1774, a group of colonial leaders met ([the First Continental Congress](#)) and wrote a letter to the king declaring they were loyal subjects and asking him to let them elect their own leaders and make their own laws. King George ignored the colonists' complaints and said the colonies were in rebellion. The colonists felt that England and the king had abused their power. And as the Declaration of Independence states, when this happens to people, "*It is their right, their duty, to throw off such Government.*"



LESSON 1: Background: The 13 Original Colonies

When the 13 original colonies became unhappy under the control of the King of England, they began to meet together. They called it a "[Continental Congress](#)" and met for the first time in 1774. They hoped working as a group would help them get what they wanted from the King. It only made the King very angry. When the colonies didn't get what they wanted, they prepared to fight for Independence. We remember Patrick Henry, who spoke to the Virginia Assembly in March of 1775. Patrick Henry believed that the colonies would have to fight to get their freedom, and said, "Give me liberty or give me death."



13 original colonies

The original thirteen colonies were Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.



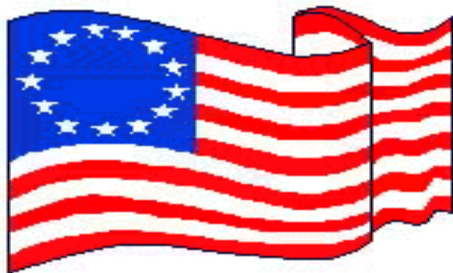
Sons of Liberty

Next



The signing of the Declaration of Independence

Each of the 13 colonies sent representatives to a meeting in Philadelphia, called the Second Continental Congress. On July 4, 1776, these 56 delegates signed and adopted the Declaration of Independence.



Declaration of Independence

■ Quiz for Lesson 1



Next

LESSON 2: Introduction to the U.S. Constitution

The U.S. Constitution states basic principles which guide our country's government and laws. When it was written in 1787, it was the plan which told the beginning country how to form its government. For example, the Constitution said that the United States would have a president and a vice president. The Constitution also said that people would elect other people to represent them. These elected representatives would form a Congress. The Constitution also guarantees the rights and liberties of the American people, such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Today, the Constitution remains the most important guide to all parts of government. It is often called the "*highest law of the land*." This means that no state, no branch of government, no person, no elected official--not even the president or Congress--can make a law or enforce a condition that goes against the Constitution. The Constitution continues to protect the rights and freedoms of American citizens.

Principles and powers

Our Constitution is based on several important principles, or main ideas. The first principle is that our government gets its power from the people. This idea, called popular sovereignty, was also stated in the Declaration of Independence.

"We the People" are the first words of the Constitution and are written larger than any thing else. The writers wanted to emphasize that the ability to set up and start a new government came from the people.



Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration



Next



A second principle is federalism. The Constitution divides power, giving some power to the central or national government and some power to state governments. The Constitution lists things the national or federal government can do; these are delegated powers. The Constitution lists things which the national government and the state governments cannot do. Some powers, like collecting taxes, are concurrent, powers that both the national and state governments can exercise. The chart below gives some examples.

<u>National powers</u>	<u>Concurrent powers</u>	<u>State powers</u>
declare war	collect taxes	set up schools
handle foreign affairs	create courts	make marriage laws
print money	punish criminals	create county and city governments



The Constitution never really lists the powers of the states. Article 1 prohibits or forbids the states to do certain things such as make its own money, declare war on another country, or make treaties with another country. Amendment 10 of the Constitution then states that powers not given to the national government and not forbidden to the states are reserved to the states.

Another main idea or principle in the Constitution is separation of powers. The first three Articles divide the national government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The writers of the Constitution did not want one part of government to become too powerful. In addition to dividing power into three branches, the writers were careful to add checks and balances to the Constitution. Each branch of government has some limits placed on it by another branch. For example, Congress--the legislative branch-- makes all laws. But Congress can't make laws which go against the Constitution, and the Supreme Court--the judicial branch-- can declare a law unconstitutional.

Next

Writing the Constitution



Independence Hall, Assembly room
Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park

In 1787, delegates met in Independence Hall to rewrite [the Articles of Confederation](#). The Articles of Confederation, written after the Declaration of Independence, were a first attempt at designing a government for the new country. But by 1787, it was obvious that the Articles of Confederation were not working and many changes were needed. An important weakness of the Articles of Confederation was that it didn't give enough power to the federal government.

Delegates from 12 of the 13 states came to Philadelphia in May 1787, but many of the 55 [delegates](#) who came were not happy. Most delegates felt strongly loyal to the states they represented and were opposed to writing a constitution which created a strong national government. However, two delegates, [James Madison](#) and [Alexander Hamilton](#), were convinced that the new country needed a strong, central government.

The 55 delegates were strong-willed, successful people. Most delegates were important in their state governments. Many had fought in the American Revolution. Thomas Jefferson did not come, but 8 people who had signed the Declaration of Independence were there. All delegates agreed that George Washington should be president of the convention. Benjamin Franklin, at age 81, was the oldest delegate.

Delegates disagreed and became angry with one another. The summer of 1787 was one of the hottest ever in Philadelphia. The delegates met all through the summer and worked behind locked doors and closed windows to keep their meetings secret. Throughout the meetings, delegates threw temper tantrums, and insulted one another. Some even stomped out of the meetings and never returned.



Next



Writing the Constitution



George Washington had won the respect of his countrymen as commander of the Continental Army. Washington's fellow delegates elected him president of the Constitutional Convention because they held him in high esteem. As president of the Constitutional Convention, Washington's job was to keep the meetings orderly and effective. This was no small task considering the many different points of view among the delegates. The delegates listened carefully when President Washington broke in to make a contribution. Before the Constitutional Convention began, a rules committee decided how the process would work. No matter how many delegates a state sent, each state was given only one vote. If a state sent more than one delegate, all delegates had to come to an agreement about their state's one vote. Any delegate could voice an opinion. All proceedings would be kept secret until the Constitutional Convention presented a finished Constitution.

Signing the Constitution: The Constitutional Convention met for 4 months. The 55 delegates were seldom all together at once because the weather was bad and travel was difficult. About 35 delegates were present during the process of writing the Constitution. These delegates were selected by their states. They were educated, patriotic, and experienced men, ranging from the ages of 50 to 81. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest delegate. Some men were landowners and some were lawyers or judges. All delegates held at least one public office. This group is sometimes called the "Founding Fathers." A total of 39 delegates signed the Constitution. William Jackson, secretary of the Constitutional Convention, also signed. New Hampshire, the state with the smallest delegation, and Pennsylvania, the state with the largest delegation, shared the honor of having all their delegates sign this historic document. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights guarantees the rights of all people living in the United States.



Next

The Great Compromise



All of the delegates wanted to create a representative form of government. People would elect representatives, and these representatives would make decisions for them.

All the delegates wanted to have a Congress to make laws. Each state would elect representatives to Congress. But the delegates could not agree on how many representatives each state should have. States with a lot of people thought that they should have more members than states with fewer people. But states with fewer people didn't want the other states to have more power in Congress than they had, so they thought all states should have the same number of members.

A compromise, called [the Great Compromise](#), settled the disagreement. Congress would have two parts--a Senate and a House of Representatives. In one part, the Senate, each state would have the same number of members. In the other part, the House of Representatives, states would have different numbers of members depending on how many people lived in each state. States with more people would have more representatives.

More than anyone else, it was James Madison whose words and ideas slowly convinced delegates that a new constitution and a strong central government were needed. Madison made more than 150 speeches during the Constitutional Convention and wrote much of the Constitution. He is known as the Father of the Constitution.

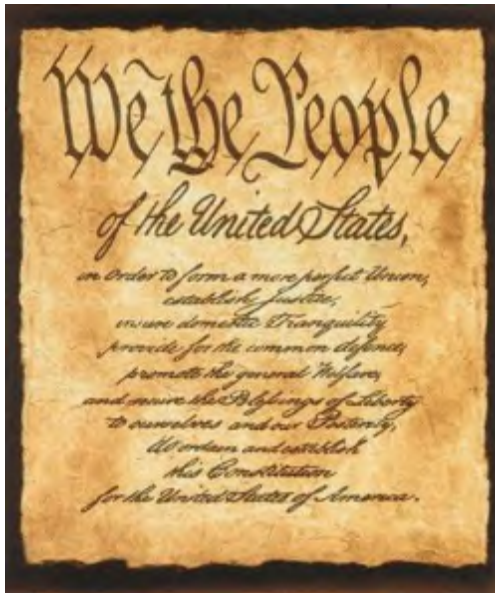
Overview of the Constitution: The Constitution is made up of 3 parts, [the preamble](#), [the articles](#), and [the amendments](#). When the delegates signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787, it contained the preamble and 7 articles. In 1791, the first 10 amendments, [the Bill of Rights](#), were added. Since 1791, 17 other amendments have been added to the Constitution. The Constitution sets up a federal system of government which means power is shared between the national government and state governments. Articles I, II, and III separate the power of the national government into 3 branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Other articles tell how to change and approve the Constitution and how states will work with each other and the national government. The Bill of Rights helped ratify the Constitution in the states where strong government was feared.

The Constitution does not go into lots of detail. It tells the legislative branch (Congress) to make the laws. It tells the executive branch (the president) to carry out the laws made by Congress. And it tells the the judicial branch (the Supreme Court and other federal courts) to settle any arguments or disagreements that arise from the Constitution.

The Preamble

The Preamble is the one-paragraph introduction to the Constitution. It begins the Constitution by stating the goals of the Constitution. Below is a picture of the real document with the preamble written out.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.



The Constitution was written over 200 years ago. Words and phrases were used differently. Below is a more modern statement of the preamble.

We the people of the United States want to form a better country, create a fair and just legal system, have peace inside the country, defend our country from other countries, help everyone live a better life, and make sure these things last during our lifetimes and our children's. Therefore, we make and authorize this plan of government for the United States of America.

Next

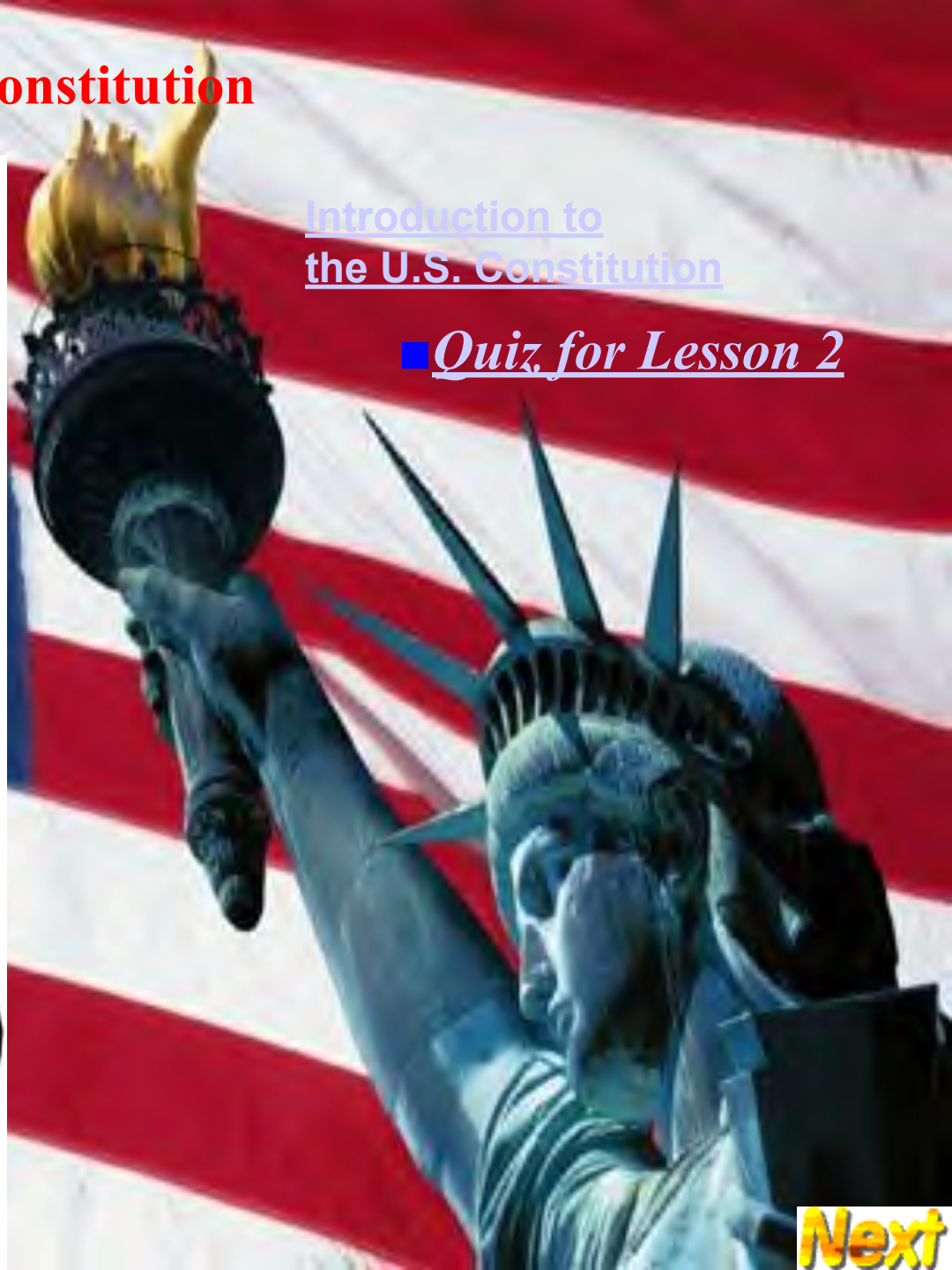
The Preamble of The U.S. Constitution

WE THE PEOPLE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION,
ESTABLISH JUSTICE,
INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY
PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENCE,
PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE,
AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY
TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY,
DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS
CONSTITUTION FOR THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PREAMBLE TO
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Introduction to
the U.S. Constitution

■ *Quiz for Lesson 2*



Next

LESSON 3: Article one of the U.S. Constitution - Congress

Article I - Legislative Branch



Article I of the Constitution sets up the Congress. Congress is divided into two parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives, as a result of the Great Compromise. Article I describes the 18 powers given or delegated to Congress. The main responsibility of Congress is to make laws for the United States, but Congress has other duties. Article I also limits the powers of Congress and names certain things that Congress cannot do, such as make ex post facto laws or recognize other countries. According to Article I, Congress must meet at least once each year. Congress is elected by the people. Congress meets in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D. C.



The U.S. Capitol Building, home of the U.S. Congress, Washington D.C.



Powers delegated to Congress

money	collect taxes, decide how to spend money print and coin money, borrow money
war	declare war
justice	set up federal courts impeach president or other federal official
regulations	create and run post offices set up standards of weights and measures build and maintain highways pass copyright and patent laws admit new states and territories to the U.S. pass laws about immigration and naturalization
foreign relations	approves or disapproves treaties with other countries
changes in the Constitution	propose amendments to the Constitution, Congress can propose changes by a 2/3 votes in each house.
commerce	control business between states control trade between U.S. and other countries
new issues	pass laws that are necessary and proper for carrying out duties



Powers forbidden to Congress

Article I prohibits or forbids Congress from doing the following:

cannot pass *ex post facto law*

ex post facto means "after the fact"

An ex post facto law makes an act illegal after it has been done. For example, a person gambles on a riverboat on Monday and it's legal then, but then on Tuesday a law is passed saying anyone who gambled on Monday has committed a crime.

cannot pass *bill of attainder*

a bill of attainder is a law that punishes a person without a trial

cannot suspend *writ of habeas corpus*

A writ of habeas corpus protects people from illegal or unjust imprisonment. A person cannot be put in jail or prison until he or she has appeared before a judge. The reason for arrest has to be explained to the person and the judge. Article I says this right cannot be suspended or taken away.

cannot grant *title of nobility*

Congress cannot make anyone a king or queen, duke or duchess, prince or princess. No royal titles can be given by the United States



Next

The U.S. Senate

Congress is divided into two houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives. According to the Constitution, each state elects 2 senators. Now there are 100 senators because there are 50 states. The number of senators has changed over the years as the number of states in the U.S. increased.

Information about Senators	
How many	100 - 2 from each of the 50 states
Requirements	must be 30 years old must be a U.S. citizen for 9 years
Term of office	6 years/unlimited times
Presiding officer	the vice president of the U.S. or the president pro tempore of the Senate when the vice president is absent
Special duties	approves or disapproves treaties with other countries approves or disapproves presidential appointments



The U.S. Capitol

US Senate 1850



The House of Representatives



There are 435 members of the House. Every state has at least one representative in the House, but states have different amounts of representatives depending on how many people live in the state. The larger a state's population, the more representatives it has.



Members of the House meet in the room pictured above. Members of the House sit on benches. The House first moved into this room on December 16, 1857. The House Chamber is the largest room in the Capitol Building, so it is also used when the House and Senate meet in joint sessions or when the President addresses Congress.

The Chamber of the House of Representatives



The U.S. Capitol: House of Representatives



Information about Representatives

How many	435 always The number of representatives depends on how many people live in each state. States with a larger total population have more members than states with smaller populations. Each state has at least one representative.
Requirements	must be 25 years old must be a U.S. citizen for 7 years
Term of office	2 years/unlimited times
Presiding officer	Speaker of the House
Special duties	Impeach, or bring charges against, the president or federal official Choose a president if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes



3 Branches of the U.S. Government - reviewed

Separation of powers under Articles I, II, and III

LEGISLATIVE
makes laws



EXECUTIVE
carries out laws



JUDICIAL
explains laws



Next

3 Branches of the U.S. Government – Member requirements - reviewed

<p>CONGRESS must meet at least one time each year</p> <p>Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --100 senators --2 senators from each state --term: 6 years --unlimited times <p><u>Qualifications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --at least 30 years old --citizen for 9 years <p>Presiding officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --the Vice president, or --an elected <i>President pro tempore</i> 	<p>President and Vice president</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --elected by the Electoral College who are elected by the people at the November general election --a person can be elected president only two times --term: 4 years <p><u>Qualifications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --at least 35 years old --a native-born citizen --lived in the U.S. for 14 years before the election 	<p>Supreme Court -- 9 justices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --serve for life unless impeached --appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate <hr/> <p>Circuit Court of Appeals</p> <p>12 courts throughout the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --serve for life unless impeached --appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate
<p>House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --435 representatives --435 representatives are divided among the 50 states. States with larger population get more representatives. --term: 2 years --unlimited times <p><u>Qualifications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --at least 25 years old --citizen for 7 years <p>Presiding officer Speaker of the House</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --14 cabinet departments --14 cabinet officers <p>--appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --term: determined by President. <p>Serve as long as the President wants them</p> <p>--meet whenever the President wants</p>	<p>District Courts</p> <p>91 trial courts throughout the U.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --serve for life unless impeached --appointed by the President but must be approved by the Senate <p><u>Article 1 of the U.S. – Constitution</u></p> <p><u>Legislative Branch</u></p> <p><u>Quiz for Lesson 3</u></p>



Next

LESSON 4: Article II of the U.S. Constitution

Article II- The Executive Branch



The executive branch of the federal government carries out or executes the laws made by Congress. The chief executive is the President. The first president of the United States was George Washington, he is also known as the “father of our country.” The Vice President takes the place of the president when necessary.

The executive branch is the largest branch of government and employs the most people. It includes the Cabinet, the 14 large executive departments of the Cabinet, and many other agencies and organizations, such as the Post Office, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the FBI and the CIA.

Information about the President	
requirements	must be 35 years old must be born in the United States must live in the U.S. for 14 years before election
term of office	4 years can be elected only two times
how elected	by the Electoral College
Powers	signs or vetoes bills passed by Congress commander-in-chief of the military recognizes other countries make treaties with other countries (must be approved by the Senate) appoints Supreme Court justices and federal judges (must be approved by Senate)
Presidential Succession	The President>Vice-President>Speaker of The House of Representatives
other duties	appoints Cabinet members



Next

President and Vice President

To hold the office, the Vice President must satisfy the same constitutional qualifications as the President; that is, the Vice President must be a natural-born citizen of the United States, thirty-five years of age, and a resident of the United States for 14 years. Since the ratification of Amendment XII in 1804 clarified the electoral process, the President and Vice President have been elected together as a ticket by the U.S. Electoral College.

--elected by the Electoral College who are elected by the people at the November general election

--a person can be elected president only two times

--term: 4 years

Qualifications

--at least 35 years old

--a native-born citizen

--lived in the U.S. for 14 years before the election

The Sequence of Presidential Succession

1. Vice-President
2. Speaker of the House
3. President Pro Tempore of the Senate
4. Secretary of State
5. Secretary of the Treasury
6. Secretary of Defense
7. Attorney General
8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Secretary of Commerce
11. Secretary of Labor
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14. Secretary of Transportation
15. Secretary of Energy
16. Secretary of Education



Executive Branch Agencies

The President chooses a group of managers to help him with his job. These people are called **Secretaries** and are members of his **Cabinet**. They help him and give him advice on many different areas of government.

The President's Cabinet



Department of
Agriculture



Department of
Commerce



Department of
Defense



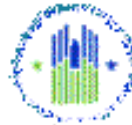
Department of
Education



Department of
Energy



Department of
Health and
Human Services



Department of
Housing and Urban
Development



Department of
the Interior



Department of
Justice



Department of
Labor



Department of
State



Department of
Transportation



Department of
the Treasury



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Next

Electing the President



People in each state do not vote directly for the president. The President is officially elected by voters called electors. Each state has a certain number of electors, equal to the number of Senators plus Representatives from that state.

In November of an election year, the people vote. The candidate who receives the most popular votes gets all the states electoral votes.

Then the candidate who receives the most electoral votes wins the presidency. But the Constitution says a candidate has to get a majority of the electoral votes to become president. Majority means "more than half" (not just "the most" as it seems to mean sometimes).

In past elections there have been only 2 candidates splitting the electoral votes, so one candidate has always received a majority of votes. But what happens if three candidates split the electoral votes three ways and no candidate gets more than half? According to the Constitution, if no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, then the House of Representatives selects the president from the top 3 candidates. In the January following election November, the president is inaugurated.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet is a group of advisers who are the heads of the executive departments. They are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate. There are 14 large executive departments, for example the Defense Department, the Agriculture Department, and the Department of Transportation. These departments are responsible for carrying out laws passed by Congress. Each department has many jobs. The Agriculture Department inspects the foods we eat, controls school lunch programs and food stamps, and help farmers.

The head of each department is called the Secretary, for example the Secretary of State. The Cabinet is this group of department heads. The President appoints the secretary of each department, and each appointment must be approved by the Senate. The President can meet with the Cabinet a little or a lot; it's up to the President. These department heads advise the president



The Oval Office in the White House



[Click here to view American Presidents in detail](#)

The American President

Mount Rushmore

Articles II of the U.S.
Constitution

Executive Branches

Quiz for Lesson 4



Next

LESSON 5: Articles III-VII of the U.S. Constitution



Article III - The Judicial Branch

The Constitution set up only one court, [the Supreme Court](#), but gave Congress the power to set up other federal courts. Congress has created two other kinds of federal courts: [courts of appeals](#) and [district courts](#). The Constitution also gave states the power to create their own court systems. Federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, are appointed by the President. The Senate must approve each appointment. Therefore the legislative branch has approval of appointment over the judicial branch. Once appointed and approved, federal judges never have to run for election or be reappointed. Their appointments are for their lifetime, and they hold their judgeships as long as they want, unless they are [impeached](#).



*The Supreme Court Building,
Washington D.C.*

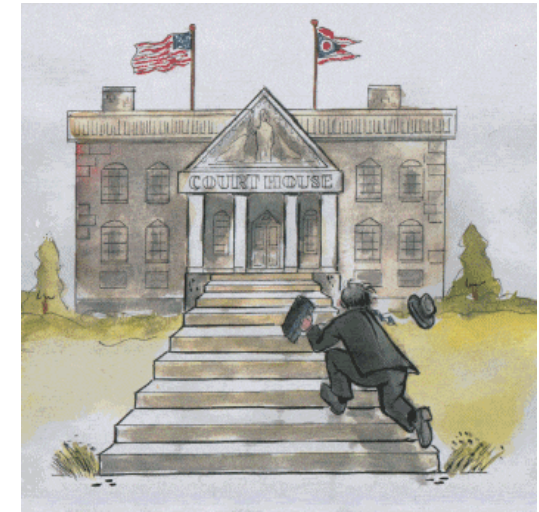
Federal Courts	
Supreme Court only one court 9 judges, called justices Chief Justice of the Supreme Court	The highest court in the United States. Decides if laws passed by Congress are in conflict with the Constitution. If a law is declared unconstitutional, the law is not valid and cannot be used. Also hears appeals from lower courts. Can overturn decision made by lower courts.
Courts of Appeals 12 courts	Hear cases on appeal (no new trials, no juries). Decide if decision made by district courts followed due process. Can overturn lower courts' decisions. Decisions are final unless the case is appealed to the Supreme Court.
District Courts 91 trial courts	Trial courts, evidence presented, juries often hear cases. Hears cases about crimes and disputes if... <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ different states are involved○ people from different states are involved○ federal laws have been broken○ federal government is involved in dispute○ other countries are involved



The Supreme Court and *judicial review*



The Supreme Court has the power of judicial review, the authority to declare laws made by Congress or states unconstitutional. This power is not stated directly in the Constitution. The right of judicial review was first established in 1803 by Chief Justice John Marshall in the case *Marbury versus Madison*. Since 1803, the Supreme Court has overturned more than one hundred federal laws and more than one thousand state laws. For example, in 1954, in the *Brown versus Topeka Board of Education* case, the Supreme Court ruled that state laws that segregated children into schools were unconstitutional. The power of judicial review can also declare acts made by the president or other executive branch officials unconstitutional. Judicial review is a strong check against the executive or legislative branch having too much power.



The Old Supreme Court chamber, home of the U.S. Supreme Court. Meeting here in this room on the first floor of The White House from 1810 to 1860.

The Old Senate Chamber, where the Court sat from 1860-1935

Trials and treason

Article III says that a person has the right to a jury trial in all criminal cases, except for impeachment trials.

Article III defines treason as an act of war against the United States or the act of helping an enemy of the U.S.

No one can be convicted of treason unless that person openly confesses to the treasonous act in court or two eyewitnesses testify that the person has committed a treasonable act. A person can't be convicted of treason for just thinking or talking about it.



Next

The Supreme Court - Justices



Ruth Bader Ginsburg



David Hackett Souter



Front row: Associate Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, John Paul Stevens, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Antonin G. Scalia, and Clarence Thomas. Back row: Associate Justices Samuel A. Alito, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, and Sonia Sotomayor



Clarence Thomas



Stephen Breyer



Antonin Scalia



John Paul Stevens



Chief Justice John G. Roberts
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court



Sonia Sotomayor



Anthony M. Kennedy



Next

Articles IV-V

Articles IV-V

Article IV

Article 4 has four sections that describe how states will get along with the federal government and other states.

- Every state must respect the laws, records, and court decisions of other states. For example, if Illinois gives a person a driver's license, that person can legally drive in Missouri, Kansas, and all other states.
- Citizens from one state visiting another state are entitled to the same rights as people who live in that state.
- If a person commits a serious crime in one state and then escapes to another state, that person must be found and returned to the state where the crime was committed. (This is called extradition.)
- Congress makes the rules for selling and controlling all land or other property that belongs to the United States.
- Congress has the power to admit new states to the U.S.
- Every state must have a representative form of government.
- The federal government will protect and defend all states from other countries. Also, if fighting or violence breaks out inside a state, the federal government will help.

Article V

Article 5 tells how to make changes to the Constitution.

- The Constitution can be changed by adding an amendment. There are two steps. First the change must be proposed. To propose an amendment, two thirds of either all the state legislatures or two thirds of both houses of Congress must vote to propose it. If it's successfully proposed, then it must be ratified.
- The second step, ratification, is the decision of the states. Three fourths of all state legislatures or three fourths of state conventions held just for the purpose of voting on the amendment must vote to approve the amendment.

It's possible but difficult to change the Constitution. Only 27 amendments have been added to the Constitution in over 200 years.



Articles VI-VII

Article VI

Article 6 includes an important part of the Constitution called the supremacy clause. The Constitution is the highest law of the land. The Constitution, the laws of Congress, and all treaties must be followed by all states. State laws must agree with the Constitution. State judges must know that the Constitution is supreme over state laws.

All members of Congress, the President and all executive branch officials, all Supreme Court justices and federal judges, all members of state legislatures, all governors and state officials, all state judges take an oath of office and swear to obey the United States Constitution.

Article VII

Article 7 says that the Constitution will become effective when 9 (out of 13) states approve or ratify it.

Its authors signed the Constitution on September 17, 1787. Then each of the 13 states held meetings to decide whether to accept or reject it. Three states quickly ratified the Constitution in 1781. During the next year, 1788, six more states approved it, and the Constitution became law.



Next

Parts of the Constitution Reviewed: The Articles (7)

Article I (1) The Legislative Branch

a long part with 10 sections, creates the Congress to make laws, divides Congress into a Senate and House of Representatives, makes rules for election of members, gives some powers to Congress, limits other powers

Article II (2) The Executive Branch

sets up the presidency and vice presidency to carry out or execute the laws, election rules, powers of the president, how to impeach

Article III (3) The Judicial Branch

sets up the Supreme Court, duties and powers of Supreme Court and federal courts, power of judicial review, defines treason

Article IV (4) The States

creates rules for states to get along with other states, guarantees to states, admitting states to the Union

Article V (5) Making Amendments

how to add amendments to the Constitution

Article VI (6) Supreme Law of the Land

the Constitution is the highest law of the land

Article VII (7) Ratification

the Constitution became effective when 9 out of 13 states approved it

[Articles III-VII of the U.S. Constitution](#)

[Judicial Branches](#)

[Quiz for Lesson 5](#)



Next

LESSON 6: Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

The Bill of Rights



In 1787, many people were unhappy with the Constitution. They felt it did not guarantee individual freedoms and rights. The writers of the Constitution believed in personal freedom and liberties. They just didn't think the Constitution needed to spell them out. But when several states refused to ratify the Constitution, the writers promised to add a list of those rights. The Constitution can be changed and these changes are called amendments. The Constitution can be changed by adding an amendment. There are two steps. First the change must be proposed. To propose an amendment, two thirds of either all the state legislatures or two thirds of both houses of Congress must vote to propose it. If it's successfully proposed, then it must be ratified.

The Constitution was ratified in 1788, and as the Constitution directed, a president and Congress were elected. On September 25, 1789, the first Congress proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution. Ten of these 12 proposed amendments were approved by three fourths of the state legislatures and became what is known as the "Bill of Rights." The Bill of Rights did not change the constitution in any way, but it did make clear what rights the government must protect. There has been 27 amendments to the Constitution.



Amendments I-V

The Bill of Rights, ratified in 1791

I (1)	<p>Article 1 guarantees or protects five freedoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• freedom of religion--people can practice any religion they want and Congress cannot establish a religion for the country• freedom of speech• freedom of the press• the right to assemble peacefully• the right to petition the government
II (2)	<p>The right to bear arms. The federal government cannot take away the right of people to have guns.</p>
III (3)	<p>Housing of soldiers People cannot be forced to feed and shelter soldiers in their homes</p>
IV (4)	<p>Search and seizure People must be safe from police searches and arrests in their homes. To search a home, to arrest someone, or to remove evidence, a court order or warrant must be issued by a judge. A judge can only issue a warrant with good reason. Evidence that is seized (taken) in violation of this amendment cannot be used in court.</p>
V (5)	<p>Rights in criminal cases People accused of serious crimes must first be indicted by a grand jury before being tried.. People cannot be forced to testify against themselves. Once declared not guilty, a person cannot be tried again for the same crime (double jeopardy). Accused people have the right to due process; they must receive fair treatment according to the law.</p>

	Amendments VI-X
VI (6)	<p><i>Right to a fair trial</i> People accused of a crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• must be told what crimes they have been charged with• have the right to a speedy and public trial• have the right to a lawyer• have the right to question witnesses
VII (7)	<p><i>Rights in civil cases</i> People have the right to a jury trial in civil cases in federal courts. Civil cases are about non-criminal problems, for example a divorce, damages in a car crash, or somebody suing somebody else.</p>
VIII (8)	<p><i>Bail, Fines and punishment</i> A person found guilty can not receive cruel or unusual punishment. Excessive bail and excessive fines cannot be charged</p>
IX (9)	<p><i>Other rights not mentioned</i> People have many other rights that are not listed in the Constitution. Even if not listed, people still have these rights.</p>
X (10)	<p><i>Powers reserved to the states</i> Powers not given to the federal government and not kept from the states belong to the state governments and to the people.</p>



Amendments XI-XVIII (11 through 18)

XI (11) 1795	<i>Lawsuits against states</i> A state cannot be sued by a citizens from a different state or a foreign country.
XII (2) 1804	<i>Presidential elections</i> This amendment made rules for the electoral college and explained how the president and vice president were to be elected.
XIII (13) 1865	<i>End of slavery- Emancipation Proclamation</i> This amendment ended slavery in the United States. Slavery was no longer legal in the U.S. or any land that belonged to the U.S.
XIV (14) 1868	<i>Due process and rights of citizens</i> All persons born in the U.S. are citizens. This amendment gave citizenship to African Americans and native Americans. The rights of citizens cannot be taken away by states. States must give all citizens equal protection under the law and due process.
XV (15) 1870	<i>Right of blacks to vote</i> People (men) have the right to vote no matter what race or color. This amendment gave former slaves the right to vote. Women did not yet have the right to vote.
XVI (16) 1913	<i>Income tax</i> Congress can collect income on taxes.
XVII (17) 1913	<i>Election of senators</i> This amendment changed the way senators were elected. It said that people of the state would vote directly for senators.
XVIII (18) 1919	<i>Prohibition of liquor</i> This amendment made all alcoholic drinks illegal and the selling, making, importing, and exporting of liquor illegal. (This amendment was repealed by Amendment 21.)



	Amendments XIX-XXVII (19 through 27)
XIX (19) 1920	<i>Right of women to vote</i> Women have the right to vote.
XX (20) 1933	<i>Beginning and ending dates for elected officials</i> The terms of the president and vice president end on January 20. The terms of Congress end at noon on January 3. The new Congress meets on January 3 at noon.
XXI (21) 1933	<i>Repeal of Prohibition</i> Amendment 18 was repealed. Alcoholic drinks were no longer illegal.
XXII (22) 1951	<i>President limited to two terms</i> No one can be elected to be president more than twice.
XXIII (23) 1961	<i>Voting in Washington, D. C.</i> People living in Washington, D.C. can vote for the president and vice president. Washington D.C. can have electoral college votes.
XXIV (24) 1964	<i>End to poll taxes</i> People cannot be charged a poll tax or any other tax to vote.
XXV (25) 1967	<i>Presidential succession</i> If the president dies, the vice president becomes president. If the office of vice president becomes empty, the president nominates someone to become vice president. That person must then be approved by a majority of both houses of Congress.
XXVI (26) 1971	<i>Voting at age 18</i> The voting age for all elections was lowered from 21 to 18.
XXVII (27) 1992	<i>Congressional pay</i> Salary increases for members of Congress can not go into effect until after the next congressional election.

Amendments
to the U.S.
Constitution

■ Quiz for
Lesson 6



Next



LESSON 7: The U.S. Flag Code

The Flag Code is a set of rules passed by the U.S. Congress. The Flag Code tells when, where, and how the U.S. flag should be displayed. The Code also names the Star Spangled Banner as our national anthem (song) and states the Pledge of Allegiance.

The flag is an important symbol for the United States. Betsy Ross made the first flag in 1776. It had 13 stars in a circle, one for each of the 13 original states. (Stars represent Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island) It also had thirteen red and white stripes.

As the United States grew and more states joined the Union more stars were added to the flag. There were 15 states in 1814 when Francis Scott Key wrote a patriotic song about the American flag called "The Star Spangled Banner" and it became our national anthem. On the right is what the U.S. Flag looked like when he wrote the National Anthem. It had 15 stars for 15 states.

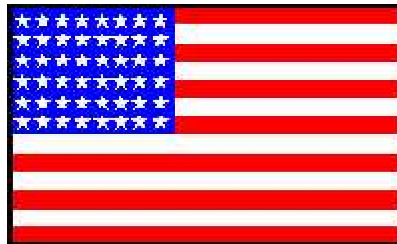
By 1912 there were 48 states. The flag had 48 stars until 1959.

In 1959 Alaska joined the Union as the 49th state and in 1960 Hawaii became the 50th state.

From then until now our flag has had 50 white stars on a blue background and 13 red and white stripes.



1814 there were 15 stars for 15 states



From 1912-1959 48 stars for 48 states



Since 1959 there has been 50 stars for 50 states

Betsy Ross



Next

When to display the flag

If outside, the flag should be flown from sunrise to sunset. However, it can be displayed 24 hours if it is properly lit. The flag should be flown every day, especially on national holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day.



How to display the flag

(Images courtesy of the American Legion)



When carried in a procession with other flags, the American flag should be on the marching right, that is, its own right. If there is a line of other flags, it should be in front of the center of that line.

When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs (poles), the American flag should be on the right, its own right. Its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



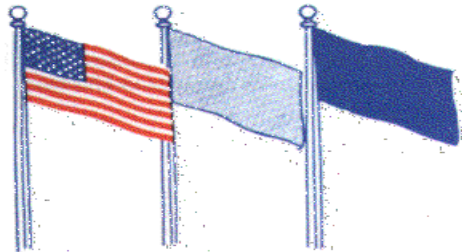
How to display the flag (continued)

(Images courtesy of the American Legion)



When the American flag is flown with flags of Illinois, other states, or American cities, the American flag should be at the center of any group and also at the highest point.

When the American flag is flown on the same pole and halyard (rope) with flags of other states or cities, the American flag should always be at the top.



When flags of two or more countries are displayed, they should be flown from separate staffs (poles) and should be the same height. Also the flags should be about the same size.



Respect for the flag

No disrespect should be shown to the American flag. This includes:

- The flag should never be flown upside down except as a signal of extreme danger or distress.
- The flag should never touch the ground, the floor, or water.
- The flag should never be used as clothing, bedding, drapery, or covering for a ceiling.



[The U.S.
Flag Code](#)

 [Quiz for Lesson 7](#)



Next



The Star Spangled Banner

(The Defense of Fort McHenry)

September 20, 1814

By Francis Scott Key

Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous
fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly
streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.

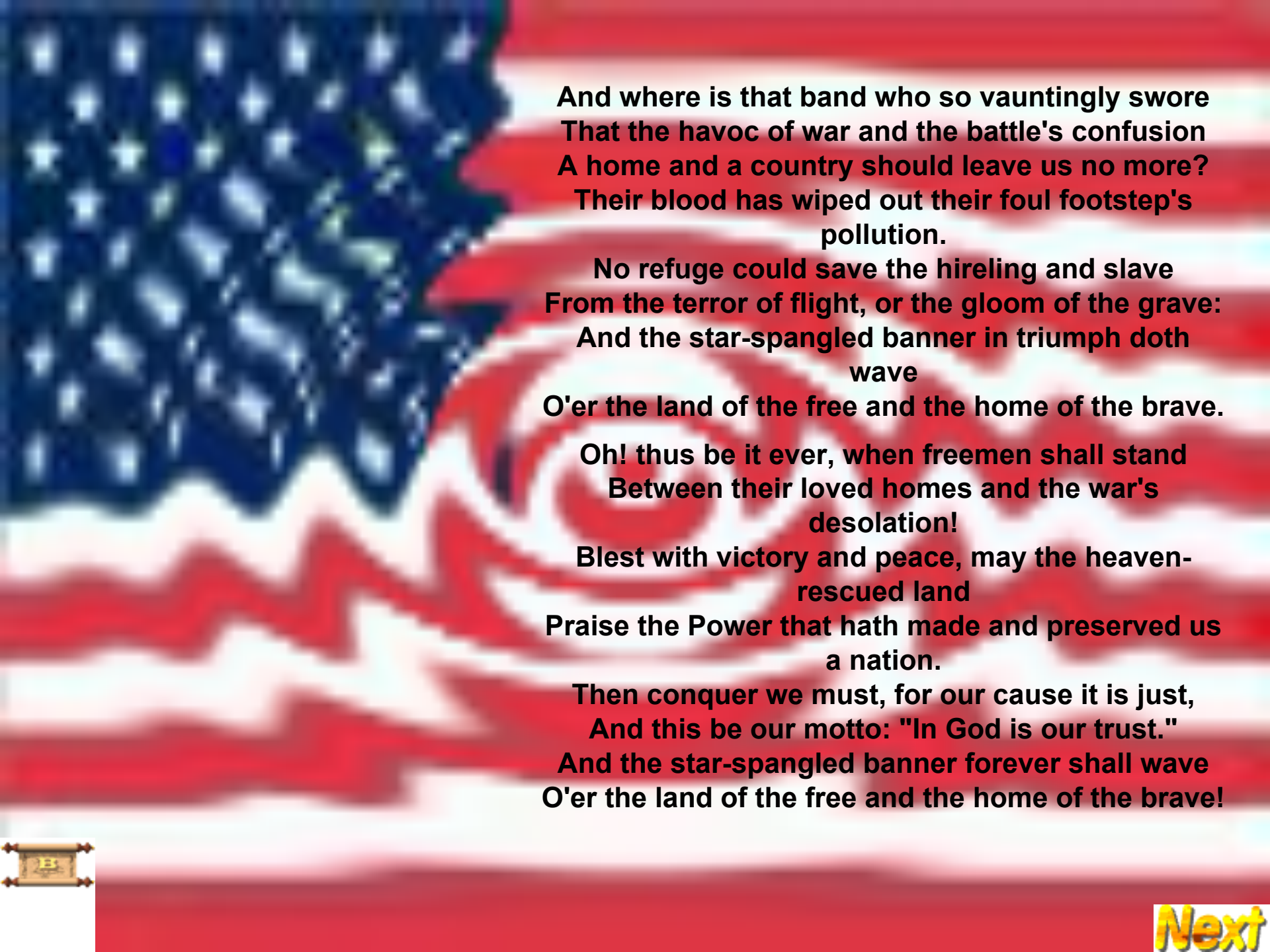
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:

'Tis the star-spangled banner! O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.





And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wiped out their foul footstep's
pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth
wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's
desolation!

Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-
rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us
a nation.

Then conquer we must, for our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner forever shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy pattern. The text is overlaid on this background.

**I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA;
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS,
ONE NATION UNDER GOD, INDIVISIBLE,
WITH LIBERTY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL.**



Next

LESSON 8: The Illinois Constitution

Introduction

In 1787 the United States Constitution set up a federal system of government giving some powers to the national government and other powers to the state and local governments. The U.S. Constitution told each state it must set up its own government and write its own constitution. States must have governments similar to the federal government, and the people of the state would elect their representatives.



Illinois state flag



Illinois state seal



Illinois became a state in 1818 and had to have its own constitution before it could become a state. The current Illinois Constitution, the sixth one, was adopted and ratified in 1970. The Constitution has a short preamble and fourteen articles. The U.S. Constitution adds amendments at the end in a separate part, but when the Illinois Constitution makes amendments, the changes are made to the articles.



Next

The Preamble

The Preamble to the Illinois Constitution is an introductory paragraph which explains why it was written. The preamble is shown below; some of the wording is similar to the preamble to the U.S. Constitution.

We, the People of the State of Illinois-grateful to Almighty God for the civil, political and religious liberty which He has permitted us to enjoy and seeking His blessing upon our endeavors-in order to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people; maintain a representative and orderly government; eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal, social and economic justice; provide opportunity for the fullest development of the individual; insure domestic tranquility; provide for the common defense and secure the blessings of freedom and liberty to ourselves and our posterity - do ordain and establish this Constitution for the State of Illinois.



Illinois State Capitol-Springfield, Illinois



Next



Article I: The Bill of Rights

Article I of the Illinois Constitution states many of the individual rights and liberties found in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. For example, Article I guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, the right to assemble and petition, the right to bear arms, freedom from self incrimination, and the right to a trial by jury.

Article I guarantees due process and equal protection which means everyone is entitled to the same basic rights and the same fair procedures under the law.

Article I forbids discrimination on the basis of sex and on the basis of physical or mental handicaps—a statement which is not found in the U.S. Constitution.

One section of Article I is the right of [eminent domain](#). Eminent domain allows the government to purchase private property for public use. For example, if a piece of land is needed to build a highway or a bridge to be used by all the people, the state has the right to buy the land for a fair price even if the owner does not want to sell the land.

Article II: The Powers of the State

Article II of the Illinois Constitution divides the state government into 3 branches; the legislative, the executive, and the judicial.

Article III: Suffrage and Elections

Article 3 sets up voting qualifications and election laws. To vote a person must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old, and a resident of Illinois for at least 30 days prior to the election. People must register to vote in the county they live.



Next

Article IV: The Legislature



Entrance to the Illinois State Capitol



Article 4 provides rules for the legislative branch of Illinois government, known as the General Assembly. Similar to the U.S. Congress, the General Assembly is divided into 2 houses, the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Illinois is divided into 59 legislative districts. Each legislative district is divided into 2 representative districts. Every ten years, the General Assembly must redistrict, or again divide the state into districts based on new census information. Districts must be “compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population,” which means a districts can’t be divided into several parts and all districts must have approximately the same number of people.

Each district elects one senator and two representatives, so there are 59 state senators and 118 representatives in the General Assembly. To be elected to the General Assembly a person must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old, and a resident of the district to be represented for at least 2 years. Members of the General Assembly are elected every 2 years.

Members of the General Assembly make laws for the state of Illinois. Each law begins as a bill, or proposed law, in either the Senate or the House of Representatives. The bill must be passed by a majority of both the Senate and the House and then must be sent to the Governor within 30 days of its passing. The governor can sign the bill or veto it. If the governor signs the bill, it becomes a law. If the governor vetoes the bill, it cannot become a law, unless the General Assembly overrides the governor’s veto. To override the governor’s veto, three-fifths of the members of both the Senate and the House must vote in favor of the bill, and the bill becomes a law.





Legislative Information

Now in its 93rd session, the Illinois General Assembly, composed of a 59-member Senate and a 118-member House of Representatives, is responsible for enacting, amending, or repealing laws, passing resolutions, adopting appropriation bills and conducting inquiries on proposed legislation. It also acts on amendments to the United States Constitution submitted by Congress, proposes amendments to the Illinois Constitution, and takes responsibility for impeachment and conviction of executive and judicial officeholders in the state.

Illinois State Senators

Senate districts are divided into three groups. One or two of these groups are elected every two years for either a two or four year term. The current Senate President is Emil Jones, Jr. (D - Chicago). Senator Frank C. Watson (R-51st District), is the present Senate Minority Leader.



Illinois State Representatives

Representatives serve two-year terms and are elected every two years. Speaker of the House Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) has served as Speaker since 1983, with a break from 1995-1997 when the Republicans held the majority. Tom Cross (R-84th District) is the Minority Leader.





Article V: The Executive Department



The Illinois Governor's mansion

Article 5 gives rules for the executive branch of Illinois government. Six officials are elected by the people of Illinois: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Comptroller, and Treasurer.

To run for one of these offices a person must be a U.S. citizen, at least 25 years old, and a resident of Illinois for 3 years. Each official serves a four-year term.

The Governor is the chief executive officer of Illinois, just as the President is the chief executive officer of the United States. One main duty of the governor is to see that laws passed by the General Assembly are carried out. The Governor makes an annual report to the General Assembly, proposes a budget for the state, and signs or vetoes bills passed by the General Assembly. State agencies such as the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Department of Transportation carry out the laws and policies of the state. The Governor appoints the directors of these agencies and many other administrators. The Governor nominates state officials, but the nominations must be approved by the state Senate.

Many of the powers of the Governor are similar to the powers of the U.S. president. One difference however, is the power the Governor has to veto or reduce items of appropriation bills (bills which spend money). The Governor can eliminate certain items from the bill but approve the rest of the bill. The President cannot do this; the President can only approve or veto the entire bill.



Duties of Illinois elected executive officials

Governor

Governor, Pat Quinn

Chief executive officer of Illinois.
(See paragraph above for explanation of duties.)



Lieutenant Governor

Similar to the Vice President of the United States.
Performs any duties assigned by the Governor.
If the Governor dies suddenly or is unable to serve, the Lieutenant Governor becomes governor.



Attorney General

Attorney General Lisa Madigan

Chief legal officer of Illinois.
Represents the state, state agencies, and state officials in court.
Chief law enforcement officer in Illinois.
Coordinates crime-fighting activities with state, county, and local authorities.



Secretary of State

Secretary of State Jesse White

Keeps the official records of the General Assembly and the executive branch.
Licenses drivers and keeps drivers' records, issues vehicle license plates and titles, and registers corporations.



Comptroller

State Comptroller Daniel W. Hynes

Chief fiscal officer for Illinois.
Reviews all bills and payments, pays the state's bills, keeps records, and helps set financial policies for the state.



Treasurer

State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka

Acts as the state's banker, keeping and investing the money the state receives through taxes.



Next

Article VI: The Judicial Department



Article 6 sets up the courts system for Illinois. There are 3 types of courts in Illinois--the Supreme Court, appellate courts, and circuit or trial courts--much like the federal court system.

The Illinois Supreme Court is made up of 7 judges, called justices. Supreme Court justices are elected by the people and serve a term of 10 years. The Illinois Supreme Court hears appeals from the appellate courts and appeals from circuit courts when a death sentence has been imposed. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in a few special types of trials.

Appellate courts hear appeals from circuit courts. A total of 52 appellate court judges are elected. Appellate court judges also serve terms of 10 years.

Circuit courts hear most trials. Illinois is divided into 22 judicial circuits. Each circuit has a chief circuit judge, other circuit judges, and associate judges. Currently there are 865 circuit and associate judges in Illinois. Circuit judges are elected and serve terms of 6 years. Associate judges are appointed by the circuit judges and serve terms of 4 years.

An Illinois judge must be a U.S. citizen, an attorney licensed to practice in Illinois, and a resident of the district or circuit.



Illinois Supreme Court



Illinois Supreme Court Justices, left to right: Justice Garman, Justice Thomas, Justice Freeman, Chief Justice McMorro, Justice Fitzgerald, Justice Kilbride, and Justice Rarick





Articles VII-XIV

Article VII: Local Government

Article 7 gives rules for local governments--for counties, townships, and cities. Local governments are given limited powers to pass ordinances, or local laws.

Article VIII: Finance

Article 8 states that public money and property can only be used for public purposes. Article 8 explains how public funds are to budget, spent and audited.

Article IX: Revenue

Article 9 describes how the state can collect money (revenue) from the people through taxes on property, income, and sales.

Article X: Education

Article 10 provides for free public education for all Illinois residents through high school.

Article XI: Environment

Article 11 gives the General Assembly power to insure a healthy environment for Illinois residents.

Article XII: Militia

Article 12 allows the General Assembly to form a state militia (military force) made up of Illinois citizens. The Governor acts as commander-in-chief of the state militia.

Article XIII: General Provisions

Article 13 gives several rules for persons running or holding office in Illinois. Article 13 also states that public transportation is an essential public service, one which the General Assembly can spend public money on.

Article XIV: Constitutional Revision

Article 14 explains how the Illinois Constitution can be changed. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed either by a Constitutional Convention or by the General Assembly. If a Constitutional Convention is held to revise or amend the Constitution, a majority of Illinois voters must approve the changes. If the amendments are proposed by the General Assembly, the amendments must be approved by three-fifths of the voters at the next general election.



3 Branches of Illinois Government-reviewed

LEGISLATIVE makes laws	EXECUTIVE carries out laws	JUDICIAL explains laws
GENERAL ASSEMBLY Senate --59 senators --elected by the people --1 from each legislative district --term: 2 years Qualifications --at least 21 years old --U.S. citizen --resident of district for 2 years <hr/> House of Representatives --118 representatives --2 representatives from each legislative district --term: 2 years Qualifications (same as for Senator) --at least 21 years old --U.S. citizen --resident of district for 2 years	6 elected officials Governor --chief executive officer Lieutenant governor --takes over as governor if necessary Attorney general --chief legal officer Secretary of state --keeps official records Comptroller --chief fiscal officer, pays the bills Treasurer --acts as the state's banker 6 officials --elected by the people --term: 4 years Qualifications --at least 25 years old --U.S. citizen --resident of Illinois for 3 years	3 types of courts Supreme Court --7 justices --elected by the people --term: 10 years <hr/> Appellate courts --52 appellate judges --elected by the people --term: 10 years <hr/> District Courts Illinois is divided into 22 judicial circuits. Each circuit has a chief judge, circuits' judges, and associate judges. --circuit judges are elected --circuit judges serve 6-year term --associate judges are appointed by circuit judges --associate judges serve 4-year term





Representatives from Illinois to the United States Congress

**Rush, Bobby; Illinois, 1st Lipinski, William; Illinois, 3rd
Gutierrez, Luis; Illinois, 4th Emanuel, Rahm; Illinois, 5th
Hyde, Henry; Illinois, 6th Davis, Danny; Illinois, 7th
Crane, Philip; Illinois, 8th Schakowsky, Janice; Illinois, 9th
Kirk, Mark; Illinois, 10th Weller, Jerry; Illinois, 11th
Costello, Jerry; Illinois, 12th Biggert, Judy; Illinois, 13th
Hastert, J.; Illinois, 14th Johnson, Timothy; Illinois, 15th
Manzullo, Donald; Illinois, 16th Evans, Lane; Illinois, 17th
LaHood, Ray; Illinois, 18th Shimkus, John; Illinois, 19th**

United States House of Representatives



Next



Senators from Illinois to the US Congress

Richard J. Durbin



- Biographical Milestones:**
- Name: **Richard J. Durbin**
 - Born: November 21, 1944, in East St. Louis, Illinois
 - Parents: William Durbin and Ann Durbin (nee Kutkin)
 - Education: Assumption H.S., East St. Louis; Georgetown University, B.S., 1966 (Foreign Service, Economics); Georgetown University, J.D., 1969; Honorary Degree, Millikin University, 1994; Honorary Degree, Lincoln College, 1997
 - Family: Married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin, three children and one grandchild
 - Residence: Springfield, IL
 - Occupation: Attorney/legislator
 - First Elected: November 4, 1982, to represent 20th Congressional District
 - Committees: Appropriations, Judiciary, Governmental Affairs, Rules and Administration, and Select Committee on Intelligence

Biographical Milestones

- Name: **Roland W. Burris**
- Born: August 3, 1937, in Centralia, Illinois
- Parents:
- Education: He was a 1955 graduate of Centralia High School. He attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1959. He was an exchange student on scholarship to study International Law at the University of Hamburg in Germany. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Howard University School of Law in 1963.
- Family: Burris is married to Berlean M. Burris and is the father of two adult children, Rolanda S. Burris, and Roland W. Burris II. He also has a grandson, Roland T. Burris.
- Residence: Chatham, Chicago, Illinois
- Occupation: Attorney, former financial executive
- First Elected: In 1978, Mr. Burris was elected Comptroller of Illinois, making him the first African American ever to hold statewide office in Illinois. He served three terms as Comptroller (1979-1991) before being elected as the state's first African American Attorney General (1991-1995). In addition, from 1991 to 1994, he served as a Trustee to the Financial Accounting Foundation Board.



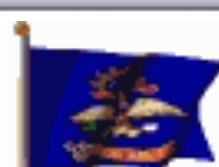
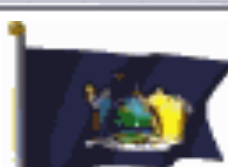
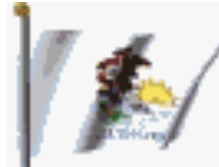
Roland W. Burris

The Illinois Constitution Quiz for Lesson 8



Next

Flags of The States





King George III of England

1760-1820

George III is widely remembered for two things: losing the American colonies and going mad. This is far from the whole truth. George's direct responsibility for the loss of the colonies is not great. He opposed their bid for independence to the end, but he did not develop the policies (such as the Stamp Act of 1765 and the Townshend duties of 1767 on tea, paper and other products) which led to war in 1775-76 and which had the support of Parliament. These policies were largely due to the financial burdens of garrisoning and administering the vast expansion of territory brought under the British Crown in America, the costs of a series of wars with France and Spain in North America, and the loans given to the East India Company (then responsible for administering India). By the 1770s, and at a time when there was no income tax, the national debt required an annual revenue of £4 million to service it.



King George III took the throne in 1760.



King George III, ruler of England and her 13 American colonies in 1770.



Next



King George III of England

1760-1820



The declaration of American independence on 4 July 1776, the end of the war with the surrender by British forces in 1782, and the defeat which the loss of the American colonies represented, could have threatened the Hanoverian throne. However, George's strong defense of what he saw as the national interest and the prospect of long war with revolutionary France made him, if anything, more popular than before.

The American war, its political aftermath and family anxieties placed great strain on George in the 1780s. After serious bouts of illness in 1788-89 and again in 1801, George became permanently deranged in 1810. He was mentally unfit to rule in the last decade of his reign; his eldest son - the later George IV - acted as Prince Regent from 1811.

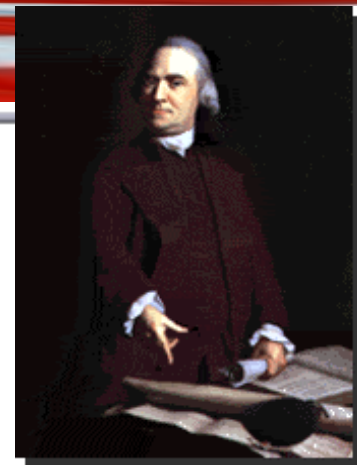
Some medical historians have said that George III's mental instability was caused by a hereditary physical disorder called porphyria.



Next



Samuel Adams 1722-1803



A major leader and activist in the American Revolution, led protest against the Stamp Act, founder of the Sons of Liberty, principal organizer of the Boston Tea Party, member of the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Firebrand of the American Revolution, Samuel Adams devoted his life to an impassioned, never-flagging appeal for separation from England.

Lawyer, business man, statesman; pre-1776 leader in Boston for "Liberty and Independence," notably as early as 1764 in opposing the Stamp Act; a leader of Mass. legislature 1765-1774, then a member (until 1781) of the Continental Congress, in which he continued to be a leader for "Liberty and Independence;" author and co-author of many famous "Liberty" writings, including documents of the Mass. legislature and Resolutions of Town of Boston; signer of Declaration of Independence; member of Mass. Constitutional Convention 1779-1780 which framed history's first true Constitution; member for years of Mass. Senate and Council; member of Mass. Convention which ratified U.S. Constitution, 1788; Lt. Governor 1789-1793, then Governor until 1797.



Next

Ethan Allen 1738-1789

Ethan Allen, patriot of the American Revolution, leader of the Green Mountain Boys, and champion of statehood for Vermont.

Allen was born on January 21, 1738, in Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1769 he moved to the region known as the New Hampshire Grants, comprising present-day Vermont. After settling in Bennington, he became prominently involved in the struggle between New York and New Hampshire for control of the region. Following rejection by the New York authorities of an appeal that the region be established as a separate province, Allen organized a volunteer militia, called the Green Mountain Boys, to resist and evict proponents of the New York cause. The royal governor of New York thereupon declared him an outlaw. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Allen and his force offered their services against the British. On orders from the Connecticut legislature, he, the Connecticut soldier Benedict Arnold, and a contingent of the Green Mountain Boys captured Fort Ticonderoga early in the morning of May 10, 1775. Allen demanded surrender from the British commander "in the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." Subsequently, as a member of the army of General Philip John Schuyler, he rendered valuable service in the American military expedition against Canada. He was taken prisoner near Montreal in September 1775 and held in confinement until exchanged in 1778.



The flag of the Green Mountain Boys was green to represent the name they called themselves by and had thirteen stars to represent each of the colonies they fought for.

Next

Ethan Allen 1738-1789

Following his release by the British, he returned to his home and was commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army and major general of militia. In 1778 Allen appeared before the Continental Congress in behalf of a claim by Vermont for recognition as an independent state. With his brother Ira Allen and other Vermonters he devoted most of his time thereafter to the territorial dispute. He negotiated with the governor of Canada between 1780 and 1783, ostensibly to establish Vermont as a British province. On the basis of this activity he was charged with treason, but, because the negotiations were demonstrably intended to force action on the Vermont case by the Continental Congress, the charge was never substantiated. He wrote a Narrative of Colonel Ethan Allen's Captivity (1779). Allen died in Burlington, Vermont, on February 12, 1789.



**Monument to
the Green
Mountain Boys**

The Green Mountain Boys was a name applied to a group of soldiers from Vermont who fought in the American Revolution (1775-1783). They took their name from the Green Mountains in Vermont. In 1775, on the verge of war, the Green Mountain Boys, led by Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, with reinforcements from Massachusetts and Connecticut, seized British-held forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point on Lake Champlain in New York. In 1777 they helped win the Battle of Bennington in Vermont. The Green Mountain Boys were originally organized by Allen before the revolution to oppose the claims of the New York government to Vermont territory. They repeatedly harassed New Yorkers and, after the war, declared Vermont an independent republic. When New York relinquished its claims to the land, Vermont applied for statehood and in 1791 became the 14th state.



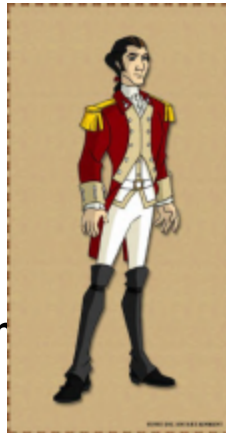


Benedict Arnold 1741-1801



Benedict Arnold was an early hero of the revolution. Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold were both so eager for the honor of being the first man to enter the undefended Fort Ticonderoga, that they finally had to agree to synchronize their steps and walk in side by side. In fact, George Washington called him "The bravest of the brave."

But, Benedict Arnold died in disgrace as a traitor. Arnold heroically directed American forces toward victory at Saratoga, until a bullet shattered his leg. When the Americans regained control of Philadelphia in 1778, George Washington made Benedict Arnold its military commander. In Philadelphia, Benedict met Peggy Shippen, the daughter of a family that was loyal to the British. The newlyweds lived lavishly and spent much more than they could afford. In 1779, Arnold was court-marshaled for using his post to enrich himself. He was cleared of most of the charges but he was mad. With thoughts of revenge, Arnold sent a message to John André, a British major, who had kept company with Peggy during the British occupation of Philadelphia. Benedict Arnold told André that he was ready to help him defeat the American cause.



Next



Benedict Arnold

Arnold persuaded Washington to name him commandant of West Point in August 1780. Seven weeks later, Arnold met secretly with André on the banks of the Hudson River. The pair agreed that Arnold would give up the plans to West Point for 10,000 pounds sterling. André set off for the British lines, but three American scouts stopped him and searched him, finding the plans in his socks. When Arnold heard that André had been captured, he escaped to the Vulture, a British warship. The Americans hanged André as a spy, but Benedict Arnold was never caught. Arnold joined the Brits and fought against his own countrymen. After the war, Benedict Arnold moved to England, but he never got the honor or wealth that he expected and died at age 60, a lonely and bitter old man.



Benedict Arnold as a Colonel in 1776.



Peggy Arnold, sketched by John André in 1778.

Next



Benjamin Franklin 1706-1790



Benjamin Franklin stands tall among a small group of men we call our Founding Fathers. Ben used his diplomacy skills to serve his fellow countrymen. His role in the American Revolution was not played out on the battlefields and staterooms of governments. His clear vision of the way things should be, and his skill in both writing and negotiating, helped him to shape the future of the United States of America.

Ben stands alone as the only person to have signed all four documents which helped to create the United States: The Declaration of Independence (1776), The Treaty of Alliance, Amity, and Commerce with France (1778), The Treaty of Peace between England, France, and the United States (1782), and The Constitution (1787). He actually helped to write parts of The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. No other individual was involved in the birth of our nation.

Besides helping to mold the United States of America, Ben helped to make everyday life in the city better. He served as Postmaster, helping to set up the postal system in Philadelphia. In order to make Philadelphia a safer city, he started the Union Fire Company in 1736. A few years later, in 1752, he set up America's first fire insurance company. He even organized a Night Watch and Militia to help keep peace and safety in Philadelphia. While in Paris, Ben proposed the idea of Daylight Savings Time.

Today, America's leadership and government re found in Washington, D.C. In the late 1700's, that leadership was in Philadelphia because that's where Benjamin Franklin lived.



Next



George Grenville 1712-1770

October 14, 1712, George Grenville, son of Earl Temple, was born. He was educated for the law, but abandoned the profession in 1741 on his election to the House of Commons. Three years later he was appointed to the Admiralty Board and in 1747 advanced to the Treasury Board. He served there until he was appointed Treasurer of the Navy, seven years later. There he was concentrated on naval reform, which effected in the important Navy Act of 1758. This act attempted to regulate the better payment of seamen as a way of encouraging service during the Seven Years War. Grenville attempted further reform but was hindered by the opposition of the mercantile community.

In 1761 he was rewarded with actual Cabinet rank and the Leadership of the House. The First Lord, John Stuart, Earl of Bute and influential mentor of Grenville, fell the thankless task of financing an escalating war. Grenville wished to terminate the German war and Britain's subsidy to Prussia, so that Britain could concentrate its energies on continuing the successful maritime war against the family compact of France and Spain. Inexperienced in financial matters, Bute offered Grenville the Chancellorship of the Exchequer. To both his and the King's surprise Grenville not only declined, but also demanded the more important seals of the Northern Department, and also demanded that Egremont remained at the Southern Department. A reluctant King agreed with Grenville's proviso.



Next



George Grenville 1712-1770

Bute, worn out by political battles, was determent to resign once the peace was secure. He and Grenville worked out the details of his administration in secret. Although he had little influence in the formation of his own Treasury Board, he remained firm in keeping Egremont at the Southern Department. In april 1763 Grenville became First Lord. He not only combined the offices of First Lord and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but also became chief spokesman for the ministry in the Commons. With Egremont at the Southern Department and the experienced Earl of Halifax at the Northern Department, Grenville formed the 'Triumvirate'. In august 1763 George III assured Grenville that he would be minister in both name and deed. As minister he was confronted by tremendous financial and administrative problems.

Grenville's first speech of march 9, 1764, which included most of the new colonial regulations and the initial resolutions for a colonial stamp act, was a personal success. He aimed at the preservation of peace and the commercial security of the empire as a whole. This colonial policy must be placed in the context of the Seven Years War, and the fear of a revengeful France. By strengthening the commercial bonds that held the empire together, both east and west, economy was to be created at home, while the new territories were to be firmly established and the British naval supremacy secured. The Americans however did not conceive the Stamp Act to be a continuation of Britain's usual colonial policy, but a dangerous and new innovation. Despite colonial opposition the act passed quickly and received royal assent in 1765.

Grenville's sudden fall from office in 1765 had little to do with the alienation of the colonies, but with the miscalculations regarding the King's political options. In the Parliament he remained opposed to the possibility of using arms to support royal authority in America. But his power base in the Commons was weakened. November 13, 1770, George Grenville died in London, after been seriously ill.





Alexander Hamilton

(1757-1804)



In 1774-75, although not yet 20 years of age, Hamilton wrote several widely read pro-Whig pamphlets. Right after the war broke out, he accepted an artillery captaincy and fought in the principal campaigns of 1776-77. In the latter year, winning the rank of lieutenant colonel, he joined the staff of General Washington as secretary and aide-de-camp and soon became his close confidant as well.

Founding father, first Secretary of the Treasury, advocate of strong national government, member of the Continental Congress and Constitutional Convention, co-author of the Federalist Papers, proposed Bank of the U. S., helped create Federalist Party, died in a duel with rival Aaron Burr.

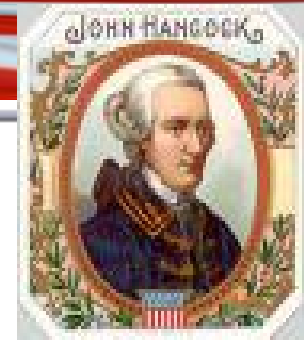


Next



John Hancock

1737-1793



President of the Continental Congress at the signing of the Declaration of Independence **JOHN HANCOCK** was the first Signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was one of the richest men in America, born in Braintree, Massachusetts in 1737. At the age of seventeen, he graduated from Harvard College and entered his uncle's lucrative mercantile business. Upon the death of his uncle in 1764, he took control of what was reported to be the greatest fortune ever amassed in New England. He was twenty-seven years old. In 1765 the Stamp Act was introduced. The Act imposed heavy taxes on every bill of lading, every legal document and every advertisement that would pass through Hancock's business. He accepted the tax at first, but soon became one of its most furious opponents. Hancock entered the patriot ranks in 1765 in opposition to the Stamp Act. He engaged in smuggling and one of his ships was seized in 1769. His opposition led to his association with Samuel Adams, and together they worked so hard for the cause of independence, that they were called outlaws. On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere's famous ride was made chiefly to warn Hancock and Adams of their impending arrest. Hancock served as the president of the Massachusetts Provisional Congress from 1774 to 1775, and as president of the First and Second Continental Congresses from 1775 to 1777. Most delegates agreed that he was an excellent choice as president, as his experience in public business gave him ease and dignity. During his tenure as president of the Continental Congress in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed. When the first printings of the Declaration of Independence were published, they bore only his name. John Hancock married Dorothy Quincy and continued to sit as president of the Congress, moderating the debates from the floor for and against independence. Following his period in Congress, from 1775 to 1780, he helped to frame the Massachusetts constitution and was elected as their first governor. He presided at the state convention, which ratified the Constitution. Hancock died in 1793 during his ninth term as governor, at the age of fifty-six.

Next



Patrick Henry 1736 - 1799



Patrick Henry, lawyer, patriot, and orator, was a living symbol of the American struggle for liberty and self government. In 1763, arguing the famed Parson's Cause in Hanover County, Henry proclaimed that a king who would veto a good and necessary law made by a locally elected representative body was not a father to his people but a tyrant who forfeits the allegiance of his subjects. Henry amplified this doctrine to the point of treason in defending his resolutions against the Stamp Act in the House of Burgesses on May 30, 1765. Carried away by the fervor of his own argument, the plainly dressed burgess from Louisa County exclaimed that "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third." At this point cries of treason rose from all sides, but with hardly a pause Henry neatly "baffled the charge vociferated" and won the burgesses for his cause. Five of his resolutions approved, the new leader in Virginia politics saddled his lean horse and took the westward road out of Williamsburg. (After his departure, one of the resolutions was overturned.) Henceforth Henry was a leader in every protest against British tyranny and in every movement for colonial rights.

In March 1775 Patrick Henry urged his fellow Virginians to arm in self-defense, closing his appeal (uttered at St. John's Church in Richmond, where the legislature was meeting) with the immortal words: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." Henry's motion to arms was carried over the protests of more conservative patriots and was one of the causes of the order for Lord Dunmore, the royal governor to remove some gunpowder from the Magazine. Henry, "a Quaker in religion but the very Devil in politics, " mobilized the militia to force restitution of the powder. Since Henry's action followed by but a few hours the British march on Concord, it may be said to mark the beginning of the Revolution in Virginia.


Although Henry spent much of the next year as a delegate to Congress, he returned to play a prominent role in the May 6, 1776, convention and to become the first governor of the commonwealth under its new constitution. Patrick Henry served three terms as governor.



Patrick Henry Give Me Liberty or
Give Me Death



Next



**The father of the American
Navy visited Portsmouth
twice dividing his time
between things social
and things military**



John Paul Jones

1747 - 1792



Jones became first mate on a slaver brigantine in 1766 but soon left that trade in disgust. He was appointed master in 1769. As master of a merchant vessel, he killed the leader of his mutinous crew in self-defense at Tobago in the West Indies in 1773. To avoid trial, Jones fled to Virginia and was considered a fugitive by the British. He concealed his identity by adding the surname Jones.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1775, Jones went to Philadelphia and entered the Continental Navy. In December he was commissioned a lieutenant on the first American flagship, Alfred. Jones was quickly promoted to captain in 1776 and given command of the sloop Providence. While on his first cruise aboard the Providence, he destroyed British fisheries in Nova Scotia and captured sixteen prize British ships.

In command of Ranger in 1777 and 1778, he operated in British home waters and made audacious raids on England's shore. In recognition of his exploits, he was placed in command of five French and American vessels. Aboard his flagship, the Bonhomme Richard, Jones led his small squadron in the capture of seven merchantmen off of the Scottish coast. On September 23, 1779, Jones fought one of the bloodiest engagements in naval history. Jones struggled with the 44-gun Royal Navy frigate Serapis, and although his own vessel was burning and sinking, Jones would not accept the British demand for surrender, replying, "I have not yet begun to fight." More than three hours later, Serapis surrendered and Jones took command.





John Paul Jones

1747 - 1792



Thomas Jefferson and others referred to him as 'little Jones' and he may have been 5'5". Unlike other merchant seamen, he was well dressed, carried a sword, and conducted himself with practiced decorum.. Add to that a Scottish brogue, and light Celtic features. He was never an easy man to get along with, intense about his honor and his duties, a harsh military master. But he was surprisingly sociable. He was a prolific poem and letter writer, spoke some French, and, though he never married, was involved in many romances. Above all, no one questioned his daring. In Britain, his naval actions against the mother country certainly led to his presentation as a pirate. In 1788, Russian Empress Catherine the Great appointed Jones rear admiral in the Russian Navy, in which he saw action in the Liman campaign in the Black Sea. He left the Russian service in 1789 and moved to Paris. He was appointed U.S. Consul to Algiers but died before the commission arrived. His body was buried in Paris, but in 1905, after a lengthy search, his remarkably preserved corpse was discovered and removed from a gravesite in Paris and transported to the United States. Through the intervention of President Theodore Roosevelt, Jones' remains were re-interred in an ornate tomb at the Naval Academy Chapel at Annapolis, Maryland in 1913 when the tomb was completed



Next



Francis Scott Key 1779-1843



Francis Scott Key was a well known Washington lawyer and amateur verse writer. He became famous for writing the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner," now the national anthem of the United States. It was wrote as a poem during the War of 1812.

When the British retreated from Washington during the war, they took Key's friend William Beanes with them. Key received permission from President James Madison to intercede with the British for Beanes' release. Key boarded a prisoner-exchange boat in September 1814. The boat was held in temporary custody by a British warship. From this exciting vantage point in the midst of the enemy, Key witnessed the British fleet's bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor. He watched the shelling with anxiety throughout the night. The next morning, he saw that "our flag was still there" despite the ordeal. His joy inspired him to write a poem about it.

Key turned the text over to a Baltimore printer after being released by the British. He borrowed the tune from a popular English drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven." Congress adopted his song, "The Star Spangled Banner," as the national anthem of the United States in 1931.

Key was born in Frederick County (now Carroll County). He attended St. Johns College in Annapolis. In 1801, he began to practice law in Frederick. He became district attorney of the District of Columbia in 1833 and remained so until 1841. He never took poetry seriously, though he wrote enough to fill a collection , Poems of the late Francis S. Key, Esq. (1857).



Next

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with horizontal stripes of red and white, and a blue field with white stars. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

Alexander McDougall 1731-1786

Born in Scotland, 1731. General in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War; Delegate to Continental Congress from New York, 1781; member of New York state senate Southern District, 1783-86; died in office 1786. Member, Society of the Cincinnati. Died in New York, New York County, N.Y., June 9, 1786. Entombed at First Presbyterian Church, New York, N.Y.

One of seven leading Sons of Liberty, namely: Isaac Sears, Caspar Wistar, Alexander McDougall, Jacob Van Zandt, Samuel Broome, Erasmus Williams, and James Varick.



Next



Thomas Paine 1737-1809



Thomas Paine was born on the twenty-ninth of January 1737 at Thetford, Norfolk in England, as a son of a Quaker. After a short basic education, he started to work, at first for his father, later as an officer of the excise. During this occupation Thomas Paine was an unsuccessful man, and was twice dismissed from his post. In 1774, he met Benjamin Franklin in London, who advised him to immigrate to America, giving him letters of recommendation. Paine landed at Philadelphia on November 30, 1774. Starting over as a publicist, he first published his African Slavery in America, in the spring of 1775, criticizing slavery in America as being unjust and inhumane. At this time he also had become co-editor of the Pennsylvania Magazine. On arriving in Philadelphia, Paine had sensed the rise of tension, and the spirit of rebellion, that had steadily mounted in the Colonies after the Boston Tea party and when the fighting had started, in April 1775, with the battles of Lexington and Concord. In Paine's view the Colonies had all the right to revolt against a government that imposed taxes on them but which did not give them the right of representation in the Parliament at Westminster. But he went even further: for him there was no reason for the Colonies to stay dependent on England. On January 10, 1776 Paine formulated his ideas on American independence in his pamphlet Common Sense. In his Common Sense, Paine states that sooner or later independence from England must come, because America had lost touch with the mother country. In his words, all the arguments for separation of England are based on nothing more than simple facts, plain arguments and common sense. Government was necessary evil that could only become safe when it was representative and altered by frequent elections. The function of government in society ought to be only regulating and therefore as simple as possible. Not surprisingly, but nevertheless remarkable was his call for a declaration of independence. Due to the many copies sold (500.000) Paine's influence on the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776 is eminent. Another sign of his great influence is the number of loyalist reactions to Common Sense.



Next



Josiah Quincy 1772-1864

Josiah Quincy was a Congressman, judge of the Massachusetts municipal court, state representative, mayor of Boston and president of Harvard College. As Mayor he played a central role in making Boston a modern city. QUINCY, Josiah, lawyer, born in Lenox, Massachusetts, 7 March, 1793; died in Rumney, New Hampshire, 19 January, 1875 Although prepared, he was unable to take a collegiate course, and, on finishing his studies at the Lenox academy, he began at once the study of law in Stockbridge. Shortly after his admission to the bar he removed to Rumney, New Hampshire, where he spent the remainder of his life. In a few years he became one of the most successful lawyers in the state. He was frequently elected to the legislature, and for one year was president of the state senate. He was a man of great public spirit, and devoted much time to the promotion of the railway and educational interests of New Hampshire. Mr. Quincy was an active friend of the various enterprises of the Baptist denomination, with which he was identified, serving for years as a trustee of Newton theological seminary. Quincy's parents were Abigail Phillips and patriot leader Josiah Quincy, who died in 1775 returning from a diplomatic visit to Britain. He was a descendant of generations of judges, elected representatives and militia officers—leaders who since the 1630s had dominated Braintree township, south of Boston. Nephew too of loyalist Samuel Quincy, solicitor-general of the colony's last imperial government, Josiah was born into New England's untitled aristocracy, entering the world, as John Adams remarked, "with every advantage of family, fortune and education."



Next

Betsy Ross 1752-1836



Elizabeth Griscom -- also called Betsy, their eighth child and a fourth-generation American, was born on January 1, 1752. Betsy died on January 30, 1836, at the age of 84. Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of the fateful day when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her. Those representatives, George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross, asked her to sew the first flag. This meeting occurred in her home some time late in May 1776. George Washington was then the head of the Continental Army. Robert Morris, an owner of vast amounts of land, was perhaps the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies. Colonel George Ross was a respected Philadelphian and also the uncle of her late husband, John Ross. Naturally, Betsy Ross already knew George Ross as she had married his nephew. Furthermore, Betsy was also acquainted with the great General Washington. Not only did they both worship at Christ Church in Philadelphia, but Betsy's pew was next to George and Martha Washington's pew.



Betsy Ross showing the United States flag to George Washington and others



Next

Betsy Ross

Her daughter recalled, "That she was previously well acquainted with Washington, and that he had often been in her house in friendly visits, as well as on business. That she had embroidered ruffles for his shirt bosoms and cuffs, and that it was partly owing to his friendship for her that she was chosen to make the flag."

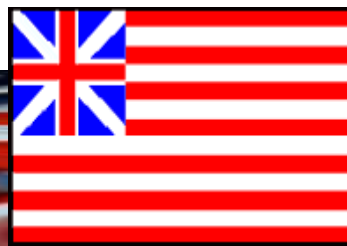
In June 1776, brave Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work, which for some included making flags. According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Impressed, the committee entrusted Betsy with making our first flag.



Until that time, colonies and militias used many different flags. Some are famous, such as the "Rattlesnake Flag" used by the Continental Navy, with its venomous challenge, "Don't Tread on Me."



Other flags were quite similar to Britain's Union Jack or incorporated elements of it. A picture of the "Grand Union" flag is shown here.



Another naval flag had a green pine tree on a white background. The one shown here is the "Liberty Tree" flag.



Next



George Washington



John Adams



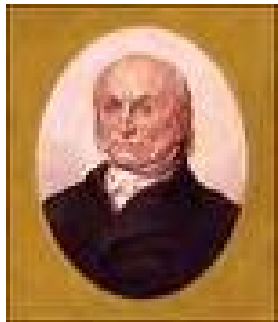
Thomas Jefferson



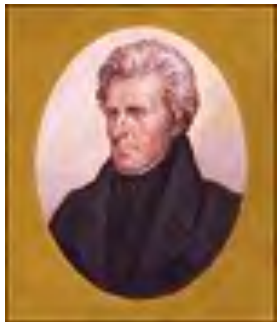
James Madison



James Monroe



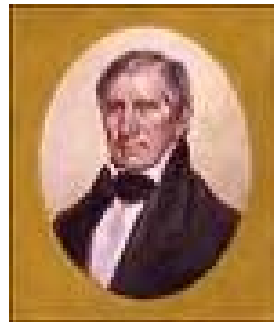
John Quincy Adams



Andrew Jackson



Martin van Buren



William Henry Harrison



John Tyler



James K. Polk



Zachary Taylor



Millard Fillmore



Franklin Pierce



James Buchanan



Next



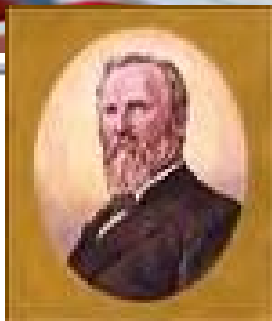
Abraham Lincoln



Andrew Johnson



Ulysses S. Grant



Rutherford B. Hayes



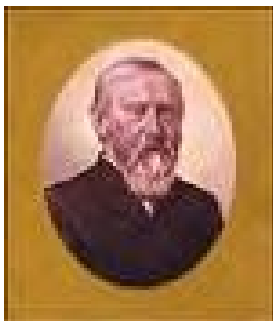
James A. Garfield



Chester Alan Arthur



Grover Cleveland



Benjamin Harrison



Grover Cleveland



William McKinley

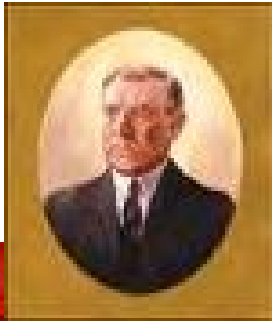
Theodore Roosevelt

William H. Taft

Woodrow Wilson

Warren G. Harding

Calvin Coolidge



Next



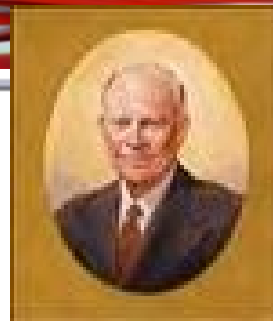
Herbert C. Hoover



Franklin D. Roosevelt



Harry S. Truman

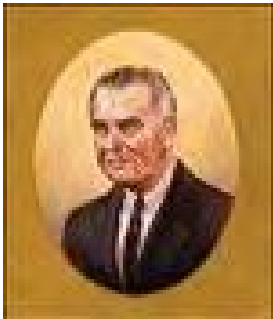


Dwight D. Eisenhower



John F. Kennedy

Lyndon B. Johnson



Richard M. Nixon



Gerald R. Ford



Jimmy Carter



Ronald Reagan



George Bush



Bill Clinton



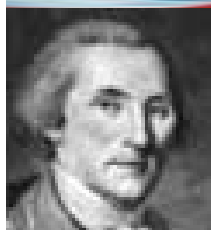
George W. Bush



Barack Obama



Next



George Washington

(1789-1797)

1st President of the United States
Vice President: John Adams

Born: Feb. 22, 1732, Pope's Creek, VA

Nickname: "Father of His Country"

Education:

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Jan. 6, 1759, to Martha Dandridge Custis (1731-1802)

Children: None

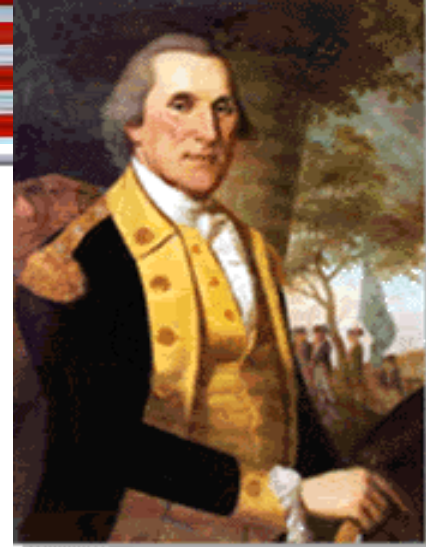
Career: Soldier, Planter

Political Party: Federalist

Writings: Writings (39 vols., 1931-44), ed. by John C. Fitzpatrick

Died: Dec. 14, 1799, Mount Vernon, VA

Buried: Mount Vernon, VA. (family vault)



Next



The Revolutionary War lasted from 1775 to 1783, when the new United States and England signed a peace treaty. We remember George Washington as the great military leader who led the American army against the British army and finally won the Revolutionary War. This is one reason we call George Washington, "the father of our country."

One reason we call George Washington the father of our country is that he worked very hard to see that the 13 original states adopted the Constitution. The Constitution was written in 1787, four years after the end of the War of Independence. When the Constitution was ratified the 13 original states became the United States of America. The Constitution became the supreme law of the land. It explained how the government of the United States would be formed.



George Washington's farewell to congress
1797





John Adams (1797-1801)

2nd President of the United States
Vice-President: Thomas Jefferson



Born: October 30, 1735, Braintree (now Quincy), Mass.

Nickname: "Atlas of Independence"

Education: Harvard College (graduated 1755).

Religion: Unitarian

Marriage: October 25, 1764, to Abigail Smith (1744-1818).

Children: Abigail Amelia Adams (1765-1813), John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), Susanna Adams (1768-70), Charles Adams (1770-1832), Thomas Adams (1772-1832)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Federalist

Writings: The Works of John Adams; The Adams-Jefferson Letters; Diary and Autobiography; The Papers of John Adams; The Political Writings of John Adams

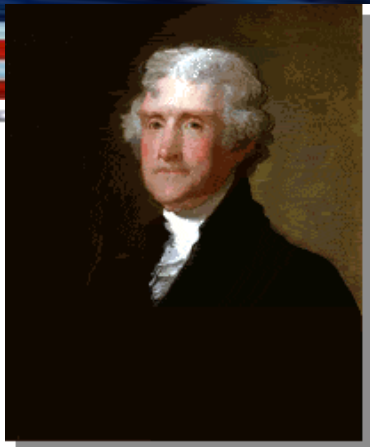
Died: July 4, 1826, in Braintree (now Quincy), MA

Buried: Quincy, MA



Next





Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)

3rd President of the United States

Vice President: Aaron Burr (1801-05); George Clinton (1805-09)

Born: April 13, 1743, Shadwell plantation, Goochland County, VA

Nickname: "Man of the People"; "Sage of Monticello"

Education: College of William and Mary (graduated 1762)

Religion: No formal affiliation

Marriage: Jan. 1, 1772, to Martha Wayles Skelton (1748-82)

Children: Martha Washington Jefferson (1772-1836); Jane Randolph Jefferson (1774-75); infant son (1777); Mary Jefferson (1778-1804); Lucy Elizabeth Jefferson (1780-81); Lucy Elizabeth Jefferson (1782-85)

Career: Lawyer, Planter

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Writings: Writings (10 vols. 1892-99), ed. by Paul L. Ford; The

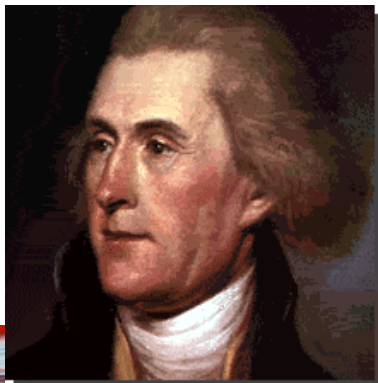
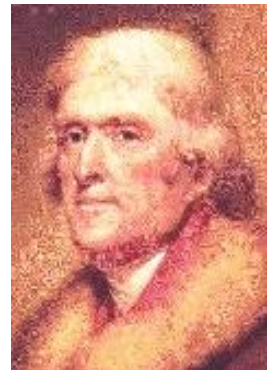
Papers of Thomas Jefferson (1950-), ed. by Julian P. Boyd;

Notes on the State of Virginia 1781 (1955), ed. by William

Peden; Autobiography (1959), ed. by Dumas Malone

Died: July 4, 1826, Monticello, near Charlottesville, VA

Buried: Monticello, near Charlottesville, VA



Next



***James Madison* (1809-1817)**

4th President of the United States

Vice President: George Clinton (1809-12); Elbridge Gerry (1813-14)



Born: March 16, 1751, Port Conway, VA

Nickname: "Father of the Constitution"

Education: College of New Jersey (now Princeton University; graduated 1771)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Sept. 15, 1794, to Dolley Payne Todd (1768-1849)

Children: None

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Writings: Writings (9 vols., 1900-10), ed. by Gaillard Hunt;

The Papers of James Madison (1962-), ed. by W. T.

Hutchinson, R. A. Rutland, et al

Died: June 28, 1836, Montpelier, Orange County, VA

Buried: Montpelier, VA (family plot)



Next



James Monroe (1817-1825)



5th President of the United States

Vice-President: Daniel D. Tompkins

Born: April 28, 1758, Westmoreland County, VA

Nickname: "The Last Cocked Hat", "Era-of-Good-Feeling President"

Education: College of William and Mary (graduated 1776)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Feb. 16, 1786, to Elizabeth Kortright (1768-1830)

Children: Eliza Kortright Monroe (1786-1835), James Spence Monroe (1799-1800), Maria Hester Monroe (1803-50)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democratic-Republican

Writings: Writings (7 vols., 1898-1903), ed. by S. M. Hamilton; Autobiography (1959), ed. by Stuart G. Brown and Donald G. Baker

Died: July 4, 1831, New York City

Buried: Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA



Next



John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)

6th President of the United States

Vice President: John C. Calhoun

Born: July 11, 1767, Braintree (now Quincy), MA

Nickname: "Old Man Eloquent"

Education: Harvard College (graduated 1787)

Religion: Unitarian

Marriage: July 26, 1797, to Louisa Catherine Johnson (1775-1852)

Children: George Washington Adams (1801-29), John Adams (1803-34), Charles Francis Adams (1807-86), Louisa Catherine Adams (1811-12)

Career: Lawyer; Senator; Diplomat

Political Party: Federalist; Democratic-Republican; Whig

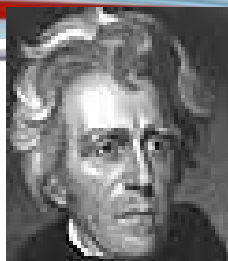
Writings: Memoirs (12 vols., 1874-77); Writings of John Quincy Adams (7 vols., 1913-17)

Died: Feb. 23, 1848, Washington, D.C.

Buried: First Unitarian Church, Quincy, MA



Next



Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)



7th President of the United States

Vice President: John C. Calhoun (1829-32); Martin Van Buren (1833-37)

Born: March 15, 1767, Waxhaw area, on NC-SC. border

Nickname: "Old Hickory"

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: August 1791 (2nd ceremony, Jan. 17, 1794), to Rachel Donelson Robards (1767-1828)

Children: None

Career: Lawyer, Soldier

Political Party: Democrat

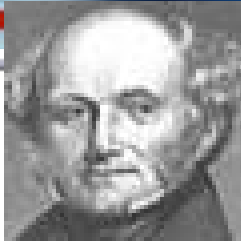
Writings: Correspondence of Andrew Jackson (7 vols., 1926-35), ed. by J. S. Bassett and J. F. Jameson

Died: June 8, 1845, Nashville, TN

Buried: The Hermitage, Nashville, TN



Next



Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)

8th President of the United States

Vice President: Richard M. Johnson

Born: Dec. 5, 1782, Kinderhook, NY

Nickname: "The Little Magician," "The Red Fox of Kinderhook"

Education: Kinderhook Academy (graduated 1796)

Religion: Dutch Reformed

Marriage: Feb. 21, 1807, to Hannah Hoes (1783-1819)

Children: Abraham Van Buren (1807-73), John Van Buren (1810-66), Martin Van Buren (1812-55), Smith Thompson Van Buren (1817-76)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: Inquiry into the Origin and Course of Political Parties in the United States (1867); The Autobiography of Martin Van Buren (1920), ed. by John C. Fitzpatrick

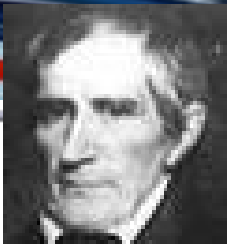
Died: July 24, 1862, Kinderhook, NY

Buried: Kinderhook Cemetery, Kinderhook, NY



Next





William Henry Harrison (1841)

9th President of the United States

Vice President: John Tyler

Born: Feb. 9, 1773, Berkeley plantation, Charles City County, VA

Nickname: "Old Tippecanoe"; "Old Tip"

Education: Hampden-Sydney College

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Nov. 25, 1795, to Anna Tuthill Symmes (1775-1864)

Children: Elizabeth Bassett Harrison (1796-1846); John Cleves Symmes Harrison (1798-1830); Lucy Singleton Harrison (1800-26); William Henry Harrison (1802-38); John Scott Harrison (1806-40); Mary Symmes Harrison (1809-42); Carter Bassett Harrison (1811-39); Anna Tuthill Harrison (1813-65); James Findlay Harrison (1814-17)

Career: Soldier

Political Party: Whig

Writings: None

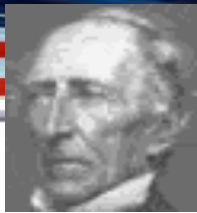
Died: Apr. 4, 1841, Washington, D.C.

**Buried: William Henry Harrison Memorial State Park,
North Bend, OH**



Next





John Tyler (1841-1845)

10th President of the United States

Vice-President: None

Born: March 29, 1790, Charles City County, VA

Nickname: "Accidental President"; "His Accidency"

Education: College of William and Mary (graduated 1807)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: March 29, 1813, to Letitia Christian (1790-1842); June 26, 1844, to Julia Gardiner (1820-89)

Children: Mary Tyler (1815-48); Robert Tyler (1816-77); John Tyler (1819-96); Letitia Tyler (1821-1907); Elizabeth Tyler (1823-50); Anne Contesse Tyler (1825); Alice Tyler (1827-54); Tazewell Tyler (1830-74); David Gardiner Tyler (1846-1927); John Alexander Tyler (1848-83); Julia Gardiner Tyler (1849-71); Lachlan Tyler (1851-1902); Lyon Gardiner Tyler (1853-1935); Robert Fitzwalter Tyler (1856-1927); Pearl Tyler (1860-1947)

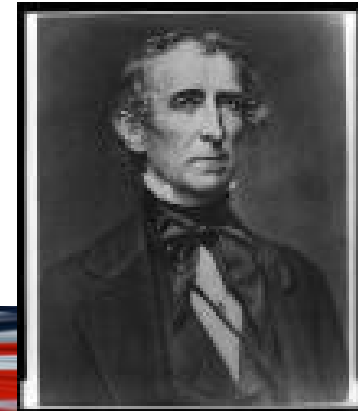
Career: Lawyer

Political Affiliation: Democrat; Whig

Writings:

Died: January 18, 1862, Richmond, VA

Buried: Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA



Next





James Knox Polk (1845-1849)

11th President of the United States

Vice President: George M. Dallas

Born: November 2, 1795, Mecklenburg County, NC

Nickname: "Young Hickory"

Education: University of North Carolina (graduated 1818)

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: January 1, 1824, to Sarah Childress (1803-91)

Children: None

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: The Diary of James K. Polk (4 vols., 1910), ed. by Milo M. Quaife; Correspondence of James K. Polk, 6 vols. (1969-)

Died: June 15, 1849, Nashville, TN

Buried: State Capitol Grounds, Nashville, TN



Next



Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)

12th President of the United States

Vice President: Millard Fillmore

Nickname: "Old Rough and Ready"

Born: November 24, 1784, near Barboursville, VA

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: June 21, 1810, to Margaret Mackall Smith (1788-1852)

Children: Ann Mackall Taylor (1811-75); Sarah Knox Taylor (1814-35);

Octavia P. Taylor (1816-20); Margaret Smith Taylor (1819-20); Mary

Elizabeth Taylor (1824-1909); Richard Taylor (1826-79)

Career: Soldier

Political Party: Whig

Writings: Letters of Zachary Taylor (1908)

Died: July 9, 1850, Washington, D.C.

**Buried: Zachary Taylor National Cemetery,
near Louisville, KY**



Next



Millard Fillmore (1850-1853)

13th President of the United States

Vice-President: None

Born: January 7, 1800, Summerhill, NY

Nickname: "The American Louis Philippe"

Education: Six months, grade school, read law 1822

Religion: Unitarian

Marriage: February 5, 1826, to Abigail Powers (1798-1853); February 10, 1858, to Caroline Carmichael McIntosh (1813-1881)

Children: Millard Powers Fillmore (1828-89); Mary Abigail Fillmore (1832-54)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Whig

Writings:

Died: March 8, 1874, Buffalo, NY

Buried: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY



Next



Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)

14th President of the United States

Vice President: William R. King

Born: November 23, 1804, Hillsborough (now Hillsboro), NH

Nickname: "Young Hickory of the Granite Hills"

Education: Bowdoin College (graduated 1824)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: November 19, 1834, to Jane Means Appleton (1806-63)

Children: Franklin Pierce (1836); Frank Robert Pierce (1839-43); Benjamin Pierce (1841-53)

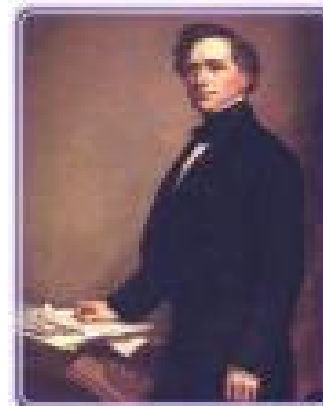
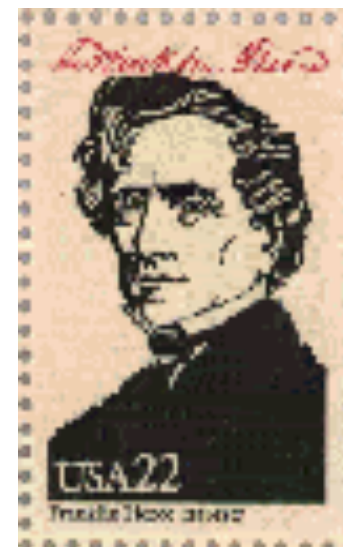
Career: Lawyer, Public Official

Political Party: Democrat

Writings:

Died: October 8, 1869, Concord, NH

Buried: Old North Cemetery, Concord, NH



Next



James Buchanan (1857-1861)

15th President of the United States

Vice President: John C. Breckinridge

Born: April 23, 1791, Cove Gap (near Mercersburg), PA

Nickname: "Old Buck"

Education: Dickinson College (graduated 1809)

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: None

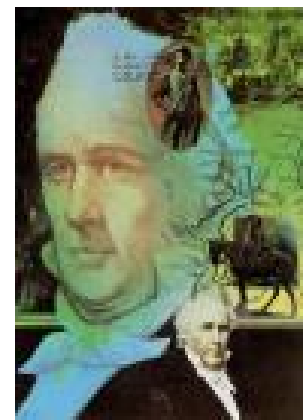
Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: Mr. Buchanan's Administration on the Eve of the Rebellion (1866); Works of James Buchanan (12 vols., 1908-11), ed. by John Bassett Moore

Died: June 1, 1868, near Lancaster, PA

Buried: Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster, PA



Next



Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

16th President of the United States

Vice President: Hannibal Hamlin (1861-1865); Andrew Johnson (1865)

Born: February 12, 1809, Hardin (now Larue) County, KY

Nickname: "Honest Abe"; "Illinois Rail-Splitter"

Religion: No formal affiliation

Marriage: November 4, 1842, to Mary Todd (1818-1882)

Children: Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926); Edward Baker Lincoln (1846-1850); William Wallace Lincoln (1850-1862); Thomas "Tad" Lincoln (1853-1871)

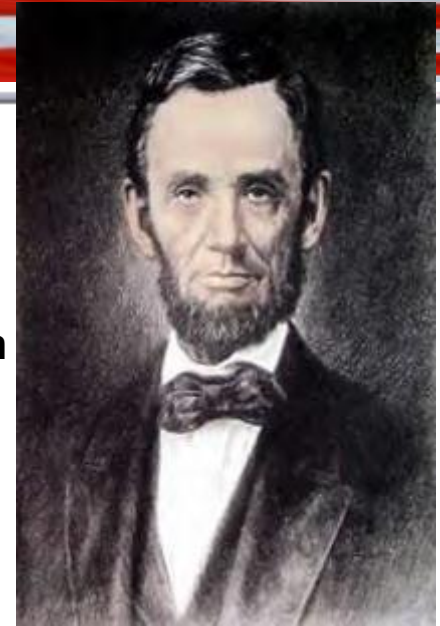
Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Whig; Republican

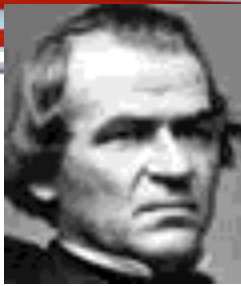
Writings: Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln (8 vols., 1953-55), ed. by Roy P. Basler

Died: April. 15, 1865, Washington, D.C.

Buried: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL



Next



Andrew Johnson (1865-1869)

17th President of the United States

Vice President: None

Born: December 29, 1808, Raleigh, NC

Nickname: None

Religion: No formal affiliation

Marriage: May 17, 1827, to Eliza McCardle (1810-1876)

Children: Martha Johnson (1828-1901); Charles Johnson (1830-63); Mary Johnson (1832-83); Robert Johnson (1834-69); Andrew Johnson (1852-79)

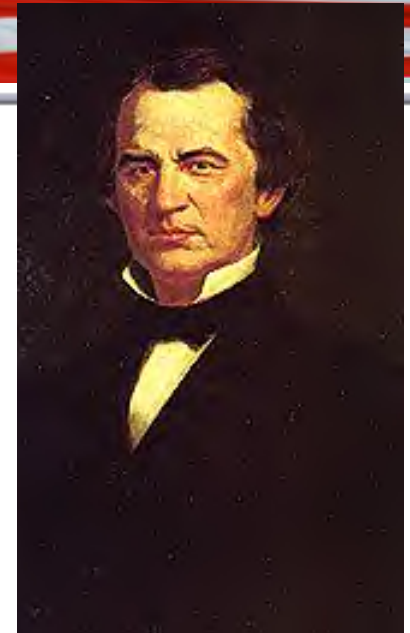
Career: Tailor; Public Official

Political Party: Democrat; Unionist

Writings: Papers of Andrew Johnson, 8 vols., ed. by L.P. Graf et al. (1967-90)

Died: July 31, 1875, Carter's Station, TN

Buried: Greeneville, TN



Next



Ulysses Simpson Grant (1869-1877)

18th President of the United States

Vice President: Schuyler Colfax (1869-73); Henry Wilson (1873-75)

Born: April 27, 1822, Point Pleasant, Ohio

Nickname: "Hero of Appomattox"

Education: U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY (graduated 1843)

Religion: Methodist

Marriage: August 22, 1848, to Julia Boggs Dent (1826-1902)

Children: Frederick Dent Grant (1850-1912); Ulysses Simpson Grant (1852-1929); Ellen Wrenshall Grant (1855-1922); Jesse Root Grant (1858-1934)

Career: Soldier

Political Party: Republican

Writings: Personal Memoirs (2 vols., 1885-86); Papers (4 vols., 1967-), ed. by John Y. Simon

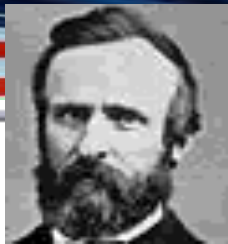
Died: July 23, 1885, Mount McGregor, NY

Buried: Grant's Tomb, New York, NY



Next





Rutherford Birchard Hayes (1877-1881)

19th President of the United States
Vice President: William A. Wheeler

Born: October 4, 1822, Delaware, OH

Nickname: "Dark-Horse President"

Education: Kenyon College (graduated 1842); Harvard Law School (graduated 1845)

Religion: Methodist

Marriage: December 30, 1852, to Lucy Ware Webb (1831-89)

Children: Birchard Austin Hayes (1853-1926); James Webb Cook Hayes (1856-1934); Rutherford Platt Hayes (1858-1927); Joseph Thompson Hayes (1861-63); George Crook Hayes (1864-66); Fanny Hayes (1867-1950); Scott Russell Hayes (1871-1923); Manning Force Hayes (1873-74)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Writings: Diary and Letters (5 vols., 1922-26), ed. by Charles R. Williams

Died: January 17, 1893, Fremont, OH

Buried: Spiegel Grove State Park, Fremont, OH



Next



James Abram Garfield (1881)

20th President of the United States

Vice President: Chester A. Arthur

Born: November 19, 1831, Orange Township, Cuyahoga County, OH

Nickname: None

**Education: Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (now Hiram College);
Williams College (graduated 1856)**

Religion: Disciples of Christ

Marriage: November 11, 1858, to Lucretia Rudolph (1832-1918)

**Children: Eliza A. Garfield (1860-63); Harry A. Garfield (1863-1942); James R.
Garfield (1865-1950); Mary Garfield (1867-1947); Irvin M. Garfield (1870-1951);
Abram Garfield (1872-1958);**

Edward Garfield (1874-76)

Career: Teacher, Public Official

Political Party: Republican

**Writings: Diary, 1848-1874 (2 vols., 1967), ed. by H. J. Brown and F. D.
Williams**

Died: September 19, 1881, Elberon, NJ

Buried: Lake View Cemetery, Cleveland, OH



Next



Chester Alan Arthur (1881-1885)

21st President of the United States

Vice President: None

Born: October 5, 1829, North Fairfield, VT

Nickname: "The Gentleman Boss"

Education: Union College (graduated 1848)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: October 25, 1859, to Ellen Lewis Herndon (1837-1880)

Children: William Lewis Herndon Arthur (1860-63); Chester Alan Arthur (1864-1937); Ellen Herndon Arthur (1871-1915)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Writings:

Died: November 18, 1886, New York, NY

Buried: Albany, NY



Next





Grover Cleveland

1885-1889 (Twenty-second President)
1893-1897 (Twenty-fourth President)

22nd and 24th President of the United States

Vice President: Thomas A. Hendricks (1885 - 1889); Adlai E. Stevenson (1893 -1897)

Born: March 18, 1837, Caldwell, NJ

Nickname: "Big Steve", "Uncle Jumbo"

Education: Some common school; Read law (1855-59)

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: June 2, 1886, to Frances Folsom (1864-1947)

Children: Ruth Cleveland (1891-1904); Esther Cleveland (1893-1980);

Marion Cleveland (1895-1977); Richard Folsom Cleveland (1897-1974);

Francis Grover Cleveland (1903-1995)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: Presidential Problems (1904)

Died: June 24, 1908, Princeton, NJ

Buried: Princeton, NJ



First minute of his 1892 campaign speech.

Begins with the music "Hail to the Chief"

1 minute, 21 seconds



Next



Benjamin Harrison Twenty-third President 1889-1893

23rd President of the United States

Vice President: Levi P. Morton

Born: August 20, 1833, North Bend, OH

Nickname: "Kid Gloves Harrison"; "Little Ben"

Education: Miami University (Ohio) (graduated 1852)

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: October 20, 1853, to Caroline Lavinia Scott (1832-92); April 6, 1896, to Mary Scott Lord Dimmick (1858-1948)

Children: Russell Benjamin Harrison (1854-1936); Mary Scott Harrison (1858-1930); Elizabeth Harrison (1897-1955)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Writings: This Country of Ours (1897); Views of An Ex-President (1901)

Died: March 13, 1901, Indianapolis, IN

Buried: Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN



**"As president of the United States, I was present at the first Pan-American congress in Washington D.C. I believe that with God's help, our two countries shall continue to live side-by-side in peace and prosperity. .
. Benjamin Harrison."**



Next



William McKinley
Twenty-fifth President
1897-1901

25th President of the United States

Vice President: Garret A. Hobart (1897-1899); Theodore Roosevelt (1901)

Born: January 29, 1843, Niles, OH

Nickname: "Idol of Ohio"

Education: Allegheny College

Religion: Methodist

Marriage: January 25, 1871, to Ida Saxton (1847-1907)

Children: Katherine McKinley (1871-75); Ida McKinley (1873)

Career: Lawyer

Political Party: Republican

Writings: The Tariff in the Days of Henry Clay and Since (1896)

Died: September 14, 1901, Buffalo, NY

Buried: Canton, OH (adjacent to Westlawn Cemetery)



Giving a 1896 campaign speech from his front porch.

1 minute, 11 seconds



Next



Theodore Roosevelt Twenty-sixth President 1901-1909

26th President of the United States

Vice President: Charles Warren Fairbanks (1905-09)

Nickname: "TR"; "Trust-Buster"; "Teddy"

Born: October 27, 1858, New York, NY

Education: Harvard College (graduated 1880)

Religion: Dutch Reformed

Marriage: October 27, 1880, to Alice Hathaway Lee (1861-84); December 2, 1886, to Edith Kermit Carow (1861-1948)

Children: Alice Lee Roosevelt (1884-1980); Theodore Roosevelt (1887-1944); Kermit Roosevelt (1889-1943); Ethel Carow Roosevelt (1891-1977); Archibald Bulloch Roosevelt (1894-1979); Quentin Roosevelt (1897-1918)

Career: Author, Lawyer, Public Official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: The Naval War of 1812 (1882); The Winning of the West (1889-96); African Game Trails (1910); Autobiography (1913); America and the World War (1915)

Died: January 6, 1919, Oyster Bay, NY

Buried: Young's Memorial Cemetery, Oyster Bay, NY



From a speech where he explains why the bosses oppose the Progressive Party. 1 minute, 20 seconds



Next





William Howard Taft
Twenty-seventh President
1909-1913

27th President of the United States

Vice President: James S. Sherman (1909-12)

Born: September 15, 1857, Cincinnati, OH

Nickname: None

Education: Yale College (graduated 1878);

Cincinnati Law School (LL.B., 1880)

Religion: Unitarian

Marriage: June 19, 1886, to Helen Herron (1861-1943)

Children: Robert Alphonso Taft (1889-1953); Helen Herron Taft (1891-1987); Charles Phelps Taft (1897-1983)

Career: Lawyer, Public Official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: The Anti-Trust and the Supreme Court (1914); The United States and Peace (1914); Our Chief Magistrate and His Powers (1916)

Died: March 8, 1930, Washington, D.C.

Buried: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



**Abolishment of war
throughout the world.
2 minutes, 30 seconds**



Next



Thomas Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)

28th President of the United States
Vice President: Thomas R. Marshall

Nickname: "Schoolmaster in Politics"

Born: December 28, 1856, Staunton, VA

Education: College of New Jersey (now Princeton University; graduated 1879)

Career: Professor, College Administration, Public Official

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: June 24, 1885, to Ellen Louise Axson (1860-1914); December 18, 1915, to Edith Bolling Galt (1872-1961)

Children: Margaret Woodrow Wilson (1886-1944); Jessie Woodrow Wilson (1887-1933); Eleanor Randolph Wilson (1889-1967)

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: George Washington (1896); A History of the American People (5 vols., 1902); Constitutional Government in the United States (1908);

Papers of Woodrow Wilson (1966-), ed. by Arthur S. Link, et al

Died: February 3, 1924, Washington, D.C.

Buried: National Cathedral, Washington, D.C.



Speaking about
democratic principles.
36 seconds



Next



Warren Gamaliel Harding (1921-1923)

29th President of the United States
Vice President: Calvin Coolidge



Born: November 2, 1865, Corsica (now Blooming Grove), OH
Nickname: None
Education: Ohio Central College (graduated 1882)
Religion: Baptist
Marriage: July 8, 1891, to Florence Kling DeWolfe (1860-1924)
Children: None
Career: Editor-Publisher
Political Party: Republican
Writings: Rededicating America (1920), with Frederick Shortemeier; Our Common Country (1921), ed. by Fred E. Shortemeier
Died: August 2, 1923, San Francisco, CA
Buried: Hillside Cemetery, Marion, OH



Next



From a 1920 Fourth of July speech delivered before he was nominated to run for Vice President. Taken from one of the very first sound films ever made.

1 minute, 12 seconds



John Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)

30th President of the United States

Vice President: Charles G. Dawes (1925-29)

Born: July 4, 1872, Plymouth Notch, VT

Nickname: "Silent Cal"

Education: Amherst College (graduated 1895)

Religion: Congregationalist

Career: Lawyer

Marriage: October 4, 1905, to Grace Anna Goodhue (1879-1957)

Children: John Coolidge (1906-); Calvin Coolidge (1908-24)

Political Party: Republican

Writings: The Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge (1929)

Died: January 5, 1933, Northampton, MA

Buried: Plymouth Notch, VT



Next



Herbert Clark Hoover (1929-1933)

31st President of the United States
Vice President: Charles Curtis

Born: August 10, 1874, West Branch, IA

Nickname: None

Education: Stanford University (graduated 1895)

Religion: Society of Friends (Quaker)

Marriage: February 10, 1899, to Lou Henry (1875-1944)

Children: Herbert Clark Hoover (1903-69); Allan Henry Hoover (1907-93)

Career: Engineer

Political Party: Republican

Writings: The Challenge of Liberty (1934); America's First Crusade (1942); Memoirs (3 vols., 1951-52); The Ordeal of Woodrow Wilson (1958)

Died: October 20, 1964, New York City

Buried: West Branch, IA



From a 1932 campaign speech.
Begins with crowd singing political rally song.

1 minute, 52 seconds



Next



Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945)



32d President of the United States

Vice President: John N. Garner (1933-41); Henry A. Wallace (1941-45); Harry S. Truman (1945)

Born: January 30, 1882, Hyde Park, NY

Nickname: "FDR"

Education: Harvard College (graduated 1903); Columbia Law School

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: March 17, 1905, to Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

Children: Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (1906-75); James Roosevelt (1907-91); Elliott Roosevelt (1910-90); Franklin Delano Roosevelt Jr. (1914-88); John Aspinwall Roosevelt (1916-81)

Career: Public Official, Lawyer

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: The Happy Warrior, Alfred E. Smith (1928); F.D.R.: His Personal Letters (4 vols., 1947-50), ed. by Elliott Roosevelt

Died: April 12, 1945, Warm Springs, GA

Buried: Hyde Park, NY



From his 1941 inaugural address where he speaks of an enduring democracy:

"Put away many evil things..."

1 minute, 10 seconds



Next



Harry S. Truman (1949-1953)

33rd President of the United States
Vice President: Alben W. Barkley (1949-53).

Nickname: "Give 'Em Hell Harry"

Born: May 8, 1884, Lamar, MO

Education: University of Kansas City Law School

Career: Farmer, Businessman, Public Official

Religion: Baptist

Marriage: June 28, 1919, to Elizabeth "Bess" Virginia Wallace (1885-1982)

Children: Mary Margaret Truman (1924-)

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: Memoirs (2 vols., 1955-56)

Died: December 26, 1972, Kansas City, MO

Buried: Independence, MO



From his 1949
inaugural address.
1 minute, 14 seconds



Next



Dwight David Eisenhower (1953-1961)

34th President of the United States
Vice President: Richard M. Nixon

Born: October 14, 1890, Denison, TX

Nickname: "Ike"

Education: U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY (graduated 1915)

Religion: Presbyterian

Marriage: July 1, 1916, to Mary ("Mamie") Geneva Doud (1896-1979)

Children: Doud Dwight Eisenhower (1917-21); John Sheldon Doud Eisenhower (1923-)

Career: Soldier

Political Party: Republican

Writings: Crusade in Europe (1948); Mandate for Change (1963); White House Years (2 vols., 1963-65); Waging Peace (1965)

Died: Mar. 28, 1969, Washington, D.C.

Buried: Abilene, KS



From his 1953 inaugural address.
55 seconds



Next



John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1961-1963)

35th President of the United States
Vice-President: Lyndon Baines Johnson

Date of Birth: May 29, 1917, Brookline, MA

Nickname: "JFK," "Jack"

Education: Harvard College (graduated 1940)

Religion: Roman Catholic

Marriage: Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (1929-94), September 12, 1953

Children: Caroline Bouvier Kennedy (1957-); John Fitzgerald Kennedy, Jr. (1960-99); Patrick Bouvier Kennedy (1963)

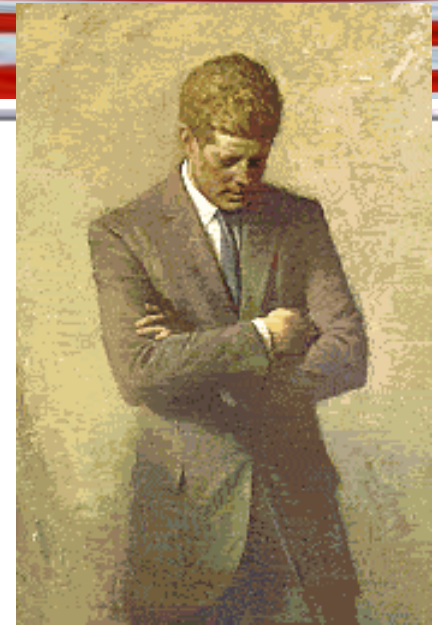
Career: Author, officer, U.S. Navy, 1941-1945; newspaper correspondent; member, U.S. House of Representatives, 1947-53; United States Senator, 1953-61; President of the United States, 1961-63

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: Why England Slept (1940); Profiles in Courage (1956)

Died: Nov. 22, 1963, Dallas, TX

Buried: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA



Kennedy outlines the U.S. response to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

60 seconds



Next



From a 1969 State of the Union message delivered to a joint session of Congress. 52 seconds



Lyndon Baines Johnson (1963-1969)

36th President of the United States
Vice President: Hubert H. Humphrey (1965-69)

Born: August 27, 1908, near Johnson City, TX
Nickname: "LBJ"

Education: Southwest Texas State Teachers College (graduated 1930)

Religion: Disciples of Christ

Marriage: Nov. 17, 1934, to Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Taylor (1912-)

Children: Lynda Bird Johnson (1944-); Luci Baines Johnson (1947-)

Career: Teacher, Public Official

Political Party: Democrat

Writings: The Vantage Point: Perspectives of the Presidency, 1963-1969 (1971)

Died: January 22, 1973, near Johnson City, TX

Buried: Near Johnson City, TX



Next



Richard Milhous Nixon (1969-1974)

37th President of the United States

Vice President: Spiro T. Agnew (1969-73);

Gerald R. Ford (1973-74)

Born: January 9, 1913, in Yorba Linda, California

Nickname: None

Education: Whittier College (1934); Duke University Law School (1937)

Religion: Society of Friends (Quaker)

Marriage: Thelma "Patricia" Catherine Ryan (1912-1993), on June 21, 1940

Children: Patricia Nixon (1946-); Julie Nixon (1948-)

Career: Lawyer, public official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: Six Crises (1962); RN (1978); The Real War (1980); Leaders (1982); Real Peace (1983); No More Vietnams (1985); 1999: Victory without War (1988); In the Arena (1990); Seize the Moment (1992); Beyond Peace (1994)

Died: April 22, 1994, in New York, NY

Buried: Yorba Linda, CA



From his 1971 State of the Union address.
46 seconds



Next



From the 188th State of the Union address on January 19, 1976.
1 minute, 23 seconds



Gerald Rudolph Ford (1974-1977)

38th President of the United States
Vice President: Nelson Rockefeller (1974 -1977)

Born: July 14, 1913, in Omaha, NE

Nickname: "Jerry"

Education: University of Michigan (1935); Yale University Law School (1941)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Elizabeth "Betty" Bloomer Warren (1918-), on October 15, 1948

Children: Michael Gerald Ford (1950-); John Gardner Ford (1952-); Steven Meigs Ford (1956-); Susan Elizabeth Ford (1957-)

Career: Lawyer, Public Official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: A Time to Heal (1979)



Next



From his 1979 State of the Union address:
"Will our children (in the 21st century) enjoy a better quality of life?"
57 seconds



James Earl Carter Jr. (1977-1981)

39th President of the United States
Vice President: Walter Mondale (1977-1981)

Born: October 1, 1924, Plains, Georgia

Nickname: "Jimmy"

Education: Georgia Southwestern College, 1941-1942;

Georgia Institute of Technology, 1942-1943;

United States Naval Academy, 1943-1946 (class of 1947);

Union College, 1952-1953

Religion: Baptist

Marriage: Eleanor Rosalynn Smith (b. August 18, 1927), July 7, 1946

Children: John William (Jack) (1947-); James Earl III (Chip) (1950-); Donnel Jeffrey (Jeff) (1952-); and Amy Lynn (1967-)

Career: Soldier; Farmer, Warehouseman, Public Official, Professor

Writings: Why Not the Best? (1975); A Government as Good as Its People (1977); The Wit and Wisdom of Jimmy Carter (1977); Keeping Faith (1982); Everything to Gain (1987); An Outdoor Journal (1988); Turning Point (1992); The Blood of Abraham (1993); Always a Reckoning (1995); Living Faith (1996); The Virtues of Aging (1998); An Hour Before Daylight (2001).



Next



Ronald Wilson Reagan (1981-1989)

40th President of the United States
Vice President: George Herbert Walker Bush

Born: February 6, 1911, Tampico, IL
Nickname: "The Great Communicator"

Education: Eureka College (1932)

Religion: Christian Church

Marriage: January 25, 1940, to Jane Wyman (1914-), divorced, 1948;
March 4, 1952, to Nancy Davis (1923-)

Children: Maureen Elizabeth Reagan (1941-); Michael Edward Reagan (1945-); Patricia Ann Reagan (1952-); Ronald Prescott Reagan (1958-)

Career: Actor, public official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: Where's the Rest of Me? (1965); The Creative Society (1968); Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation (1984); Speaking My Mind (1989); An American Life (1990)



**From his first State of the Union
address on January 26, 1982.
56 seconds**



Next



George Herbert Walker Bush (1989-1993)

**41st President of the United States
Vice President: J. Danforth Quayle**

Born: June 12, 1924 in Milton, MA

Nickname: "Poppy"

Education: Yale University (1948)

Religion: Episcopalian

Marriage: Barbara Pierce, on January 6, 1945

**Children: George W. Bush (1946-), Robin Bush (1949-1953),
John Ellis "Jeb" Bush (1953-), Neil Bush (1955-), Marvin Bush
(1956-), Dorothy Bush (1959-)**

Career: Businessman, public official

Political Party: Republican

**Writings: Looking Forward (1987); A World Transformed (1998);
Heartbeat (2001)**



Next

From his first State of the Union
address in January of 1990.
"...the beginning of a new era in
the world's affairs."
46 seconds



From his 1999 State of the Union address:
"...the longest
peacetime economic
expansion in our
history."
40 seconds



William Jefferson Clinton (1993-2001)

42nd President of the United States
Vice President: Albert Gore, Jr.

Born: August 19, 1946 in Hot Springs, Arkansas

Nickname: "Bill"

Education: Georgetown University (1968), attended Oxford University (1968-1970), Yale Law School (1973)

Religion: Baptist

Marriage: Hillary Rodham on October 11, 1975

Children: Chelsea Victoria Clinton (1980)

Career: Lawyer, public official

Political party: Democrat

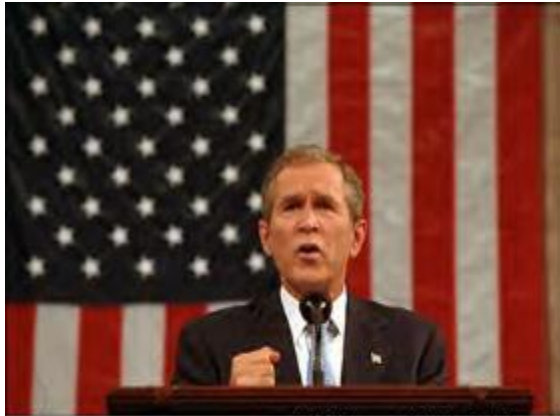
Writings: Putting People First (1992); Between Hope and History (1996)



Next



George Walker Bush (2001-present)



White House photo by Eric Draper

In an address following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001:

"...this country is taking an assessment right now of what's important.."

68 seconds



**43rd President of the United States
Vice President: Richard B. Cheney**

**Born: July 6, 1946, in New Haven, CT
Nickname: "Dubya"**

Education: Yale (B.S., 1968), Harvard (M.B.A., 1975)

Religion: Methodist

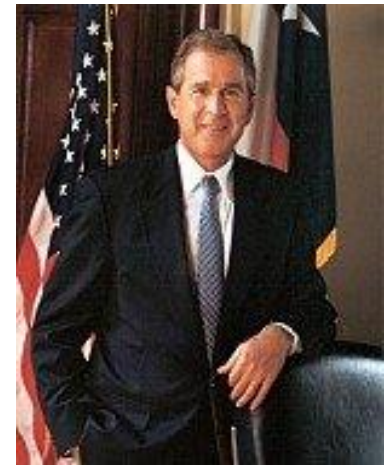
Marriage: Laura Welch, on November 5, 1977

Children: Barbara Bush (1981); Jenna Bush (1981)

Career: Businessman, public official

Political Party: Republican

Writings: A Charge to Keep (1999)



Next



Presidential quiz #1



Presidential quiz #2



ACTS

At the root of England's difficulties with her American colonies was the mercantilist system of Britain's economy. For Great Britain to profit fully from her colonies and prevent the loss of wealth to her rivals, trade within the empire had to be closely regulated.

To control imperial trade, Parliament legislated a series of "navigation acts" that defined what goods could be shipped from colonial ports to those outside England's control. The acts also defined what goods could be shipped to an English port from a foreign one.

Under the regulation and protection of the British government, the Americans prospered, but they also bridled at the controls placed on them. Strict enforcement of the navigation acts was often impossible. American merchants regularly traded with both the Dutch and French West Indies, and smuggling was widespread. Despite recognized American violations of the navigation acts, peace prevailed between England and her American colonies. However, following the French and Indian War in 1763, Parliament sought ways to raise revenues in the colonies to help pay war debts and cover the costs of defending the empire. Efforts to enforce parliamentary authority over the Americans ultimately led to open rebellion and the formation of the United States.

The following is a partial outline of some of the more important acts passed by Parliament. Known collectively as the "navigation acts," they were originally designed to regulate commerce within the British Empire, but ultimately ignited war between the American colonies and England.



Next

ACTS

1651

The Navigation Act of 1651 - one of the earliest navigation acts, was designed to channel all exports from the colonies through an English port before continuing to a foreign harbor. The goods had to be carried on English ships and have English crews, and the ships had to pay duties on the goods before continuing.

1663

The Staple Act of 1663 - altered preexisting regulations so that any goods picked up in foreign ports had to be taken back to England, unloaded, inspected, paid for in duties, and repacked for shipment to the colonies. This greatly increased the prices paid by colonial consumers.

1673

The Act of 1673 - stated that all goods not bonded in England must have a duty and bond placed on them when the ship reached the colonies. The colonial governor collected the bond and duty and thus started a tradition that continued through the Revolution. Before going to sea, a ship was required to pay a bond guaranteeing that if certain enumerated goods were loaded at any port they would be brought to England or an English port and nowhere else. A shipowner or captain who did not go to an English port would be prosecuted and would usually lose the bond. The Crown thus hoped to channel all trade through English ports and receive income from duties and taxes. The English merchants would also benefit from having a monopoly on sales and increased prices in the colonies. The colonial traders would not be allowed to trade with foreign countries.

Next

ACTS

1733

The Molasses Act - attempted to stop trade between the New England colonies and the French West Indies. Northern traders exchanged salted fish, beef, and pork for molasses, which they converted into rum. This was one leg in the triangular trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa. The islanders, for their part, traded sugar for needed New England foods. The New Englanders then produced rum from the sugar and exported it to England. New England rum became in turn a key trade item in the slave trade, which finally brought yet more slaves to the West Indies to work on the sugar plantations.

1764

Stamp Act - Parliament's first direct tax on the American colonies, this act, like those passed in 1764, was enacted to raise money for Britain. It taxed newspapers, almanacs, pamphlets, broadsides, legal documents, dice, and playing cards. Issued by Britain, the stamps were affixed to documents or packages to show that the tax had been paid.

Sugar Act - Parliament, desiring revenue from its North American colonies, passed the first law specifically aimed at raising colonial money for the Crown. The act increased duties on non-British goods shipped to the colonies.

Currency Act - This act prohibited American colonies from issuing their own currency, angering many American colonists.



Next

ACTS

1770

Townshend Acts - To help pay the expenses involved in governing the American colonies, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts, which initiated taxes on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea.

1773

Tea Act - By reducing the tax on imported British tea, this act gave British merchants an unfair advantage in selling their tea in America. American colonists condemned the act, and many planned to boycott tea.

Boston Tea Party - When British tea ships arrived in Boston harbor, many citizens wanted the tea sent back to England without the payment of any taxes. The royal governor insisted on payment of all taxes. On December 16, a group of men disguised as Indians boarded the ships and dumped all the tea in the harbor.

1774

The Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts) - were passed in response to the actions taken by the American colonists at the Boston Tea Party. The Coercive Acts were actually a series of acts that included the Port Act, which closed the port of Boston until the loss of the East India Company's tea was repaid; the Massachusetts Regulating Act, which essentially revoked Massachusetts's colonial charter; and the Quebec Act, which granted a centralized government to Quebec and extended the Canadian border to the Ohio River. British troops were ordered to Boston to enforce the Coercive Acts, and the Quartering Act requiring the billeting of British troops in civilian homes was renewed.



Next

The French and Indian War

The French and Indian War, was a nine-year conflict (1754-1763) in North America, and was one of the conflict theatres of the Seven Years' War. The conflict was between Great Britain and its colonies on one side and France on the other. The major battles include French victories at Fort William Henry, Fort Ticonderoga and against the Braddock Expedition and British victories at Louisburg, Fort Niagara, Fort Duquesne and at the Plains of Abraham outside of Quebec City, in which James Wolfe defeated a French garrison lead by Louis-Joseph de Montcalm.

The war resulted in a decisive victory for Great Britain in which it captured all French possessions in North America except for Saint Pierre and Miquelon, two small islands off Newfoundland. The result of the war is that Britain acquired a large Francophone population in Quebec and expelled French speaking populations in Acadia to Louisiana creating the Cajun population.

The war officially ended with the signing of the 1763 Treaty of Paris on February 10, 1763. The treaty also forced France to cede Canada to Great Britain.

The decisive result of the war meant that it was the last of the French and Indian Wars and thereby set the stage for the American Revolutionary War. The British colonists no longer needed British protection from the French and resented the taxes imposed by Britain to pay for its military commitments as well as limitation on colonial settlements imposed by the Proclamation of 1763 in the newly acquired French territories in the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys.

At the peak of Britain's prominence it was said that The sun never sets on the British Empire. Many were enthralled under its wing of mighty protection and dare a country stand up to Britain and face the consequences. In 1755 the last of the great conflicts between the Britain and France broke out. Although initially proving its superiority, one of the main facets of the British Empire headed for a major transformation. So that is why I say the very of the British triumph over France in the French and Indian War opened the door to the American Revolution.



Battles of The American Revolution

Lexington and Concord - British troops planned to destroy American ammunition at Concord. When the Boston Committee of Safety learned of this plan, it sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to alert the countryside and gather the Minute Men. On April 19, Minute Men and British troops met at Lexington, where a shot from a stray British gun led to more British firing. The Americans only fired a few shots; several Americans were killed. The British marched on to Concord and destroyed some ammunition, but soon found the countryside swarming with militia. At the end of the day, many were dead on both sides. The Second Continental Congress. The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on May 10. John Hancock was elected president of Congress.

Boston Massacre - The arrival of troops in Boston provoked conflict between citizens and soldiers. On March 5, a group of soldiers surrounded by an unfriendly crowd opened fire, killing three Americans and fatally wounding two more. A violent uprising was avoided only with the withdrawal of the troops to islands in the harbor. The soldiers were tried for murder, but convicted only of lesser crimes; noted patriot John Adams was their principal lawyer.
1772

The Battle of Bunker Hill - Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, together with a force under Benedict Arnold, took Fort Ticonderoga from the British, and two days later Seth Warner captured Crown Point. Boston was under British siege, and before that siege was climaxed by the costly British victory usually (June 17, 1775)



Next



Battles of The American Revolution

Yorktown Campaign - The 1781 Yorktown Campaign, in Virginia, was the final major military episode of the American Revolution. The campaign involved a remarkable degree of cooperation and coordination between French and American forces over a vast region of North America and the West Indies: a French army in Rhode Island under the comte de Rochambeau, an American army outside New York City under Gen. George Washington, an assortment of American regulars and militia in Virginia under the Marquis de Lafayette, a small French naval squadron at Newport under the comte de Barras, and a formidable French fleet in the West Indies under the comte de Grasse. In a furious onslaught against British defenders, patriot troops storm a redoubt (left and below) protecting the British garrison at Yorktown on October 14th, 1781. By bayonet alone, the Americans took the stronghold; their commander, the young Colonel Alexander Hamilton, had ordered his men to charge with their guns unloaded. With a simultaneous French attack, the assault weakened the British lines and hastened Yorktown's surrender five days later. The objective of the French-American allies was to trap Charles Cornwallis, the British commander in the south, who had established himself at Yorktown on the Virginia peninsula after having failed to destroy the American army of Gen. Nathanael Greene in the Carolinas. The various contingents all converged on Chesapeake Bay at virtually the same time. Siege operations against Yorktown opened on Oct. 6, 1781, as French and American artillery began a nearly incessant bombardment of Cornwallis's positions. Sir Henry Clinton in New York City hastened a naval expedition to the relief of the Yorktown garrison, but it was beaten back by de Grasse. On October 17, Cornwallis asked for an armistice and proposed terms unacceptable to General Washington. With no hope remaining, Cornwallis surrendered his nearly 8,000-man force to the 17,000-man Franco-American army on Oct. 19. For all practical purposes, the American War of Independence was over.



Next

Battles of The American Revolution

Yorktown Campaign - Sir Henry Clinton in New York City hastened a naval expedition to the relief of the Yorktown garrison, but it was beaten back by de Grasse. On October 17, Cornwallis asked for an armistice and proposed terms unacceptable to General Washington. With no hope remaining, Cornwallis surrendered his nearly 8,000-man force to the 17,000-man Franco-American army on Oct. 19. For all practical purposes, the American War of Independence was over. Once Cornwallis decided to surrender he had no alternative but to accept Washington's terms. These were, on the whole, both just and generous. The British army was to surrender to the Americans; the navy to the French. Officers were to retain their side arms and private property; soldiers to be kept in Virginia, Maryland or Pennsylvania; Cornwallis and some other officers permitted to return home on parole. The ceremony itself was to take place on October 19th. As Cornwallis was not equal to making his surrender in person, his second in command, General Charles O'Hara, officiated; Washington's second in command, General Lincoln, received O'Hara's sword.



Next

Battles of The American Revolution

Yorktown Campaign - A New Jersey officer reported that " . . . the British officers in general behaved like boys who had been whipped at school. Some bit their lips; some pouted; others cried. Their round, broad-rimmed hats were well-adapted to the occasion, hiding those faces they were ashamed to show." "The Spirit of 'Seventy Six

Despite posted appeals for calm (below), wild American celebrations broke out.

Illumination.

COLONEL TILGHMAN, Aid de Camp to his Excellency General WASHINGTON, having brought official accounts of the SURRENDER of Lord Cornwallis, and the Garrisons of York and Gloucester, those Citizens who chuse to ILLUMINATE on the GLORIOUS OCCASION, will do it this evening at Six, and extinguish their lights at Nine o'clock.

Decorum and harmony are earnestly recommended to every Citizen, and a general discountenance to the least appearance of riot.

Officer 24, 1781.

Next

Battles of The American Revolution

Defeats and Victories

Although the Americans suffered severe setbacks for months after independence was declared, their tenacity and perseverance eventually paid off. During August 1776, in the Battle of Long Island in New York, Washington's position became untenable, and he executed a masterly retreat in small boats from Brooklyn to the Manhattan shore. British General William Howe twice hesitated and allowed the Americans to escape. By November, however, Howe had captured Fort Washington on Manhattan Island. New York City would remain under British control until the end of the war.

By December, Washington's forces were nearing collapse, as supplies and promised aid failed to materialize. But Howe again missed his chance to crush the Americans by deciding to wait until spring to resume fighting. In the meantime, Washington crossed the Delaware River, north of Trenton, New Jersey. In the early morning hours of December 26, his troops surprised the garrison at Trenton, taking more than 900 prisoners. A week later, on January 3, 1777, Washington attacked the British at Princeton, regaining most of the territory formally occupied by the British. The victories at Trenton and Princeton revived flagging American spirits.

In 1777 Howe defeated the American army at Brandywine in Pennsylvania and occupied Philadelphia, forcing the Continental Congress to flee. Washington had to endure the bitterly cold winter of 1777-1778 at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, lacking adequate food, clothing and supplies. The American troops suffered less because of shortages of these items than because farmers and merchants preferred exchanging their goods for British gold and silver rather than for paper money issued by the Continental Congress and the states.



Next

Battles of The American Revolution

Valley Forge was the lowest ebb for Washington's Continental Army, but 1777 proved to be the turning point in the war. In late 1776, British General John Burgoyne devised a plan to invade New York and New England via Lake Champlain and the Hudson River. Unfortunately, he had too much heavy equipment to negotiate the wooded and marshy terrain. At Oriskany, New York, a band of Loyalists and Indians under Burgoyne's command ran into a mobile and seasoned American force. At Bennington, Vermont, more of Burgoyne's forces, seeking much-needed supplies, encountered American troops. The ensuing battle delayed Burgoyne's army long enough to enable Washington to send reinforcements from the lower Hudson River near Albany, New York. By the time Burgoyne resumed his advance, the Americans were waiting for him. Led by Benedict Arnold -- who would later betray the Americans at West Point, New York -- the Americans twice repulsed the British. Burgoyne fell back to Saratoga, New York, where American forces under General Horatio Gates surrounded the British troops. On October 17, 1777, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army. The British lost six generals, 300 other officers and 5,500 enlisted personnel.



Next

Battles of The American Revolution

Victory and Independence

In July 1780 France's Louis XVI had sent to America an expeditionary force of 6,000 men under the Comte Jean de Rochambeau. In addition, the French fleet harassed British shipping and prevented reinforcement and resupply of British forces in Virginia by a British fleet sailing from New York City. French and American armies and navies, totaling 18,000 men, parried with Cornwallis all through the summer and into the fall. Finally, on October 19, 1781, after being trapped at Yorktown near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay, Cornwallis surrendered his army of 8,000 British soldiers. Although Cornwallis's defeat did not immediately end the war -- which would drag on inconclusively for almost two more years -- a new British government decided to pursue peace negotiations in Paris in early 1782, with the American side represented by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and John Jay. On April 15, 1783, Congress approved the final treaty, and Great Britain and its former colonies signed it on September 3. Known as the Treaty of Paris, the peace settlement acknowledged the independence, freedom and sovereignty of the 13 former colonies, now states, to which Great Britain granted the territory west to the Mississippi River, north to Canada and south to Florida, which was returned to Spain. The fledgling colonies that Richard Henry Lee had spoken of more than seven years before, had finally become "free and independent states." The task of knitting together a nation yet remained.



Next

Congresses and Compromises

The First Continental Congress - Twelve of the thirteen colonies sent a total of fifty-six delegates to the First Continental Congress. Only Georgia was not represented. One accomplishment of the Congress was the Association of 1774, which urged all colonists to avoid using British goods, and to form committees to enforce this ban.

The Second Continental Congress - The Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia on May 10. John Hancock was elected president of Congress.

The Great Compromise - A delegate from Connecticut, Roger Sherman, proposed a two-house legislature, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The Senate would have an equal number of representatives from each state. This would satisfy the states with smaller populations. The House of Representatives would include one representative for each 30,000 individuals in a state. This pleased states with larger populations. This two-house legislature plan worked for all states and became known as the Great Compromise.



Next

The Articles of Confederation



The Articles of Confederation: written after the Declaration of Independence, were a first attempt at designing a government for the new country

The Continental Congress wrote the Articles of Confederation during the Revolutionary War. The articles were written to give the colonies some sense of a unified government. Once the thirteen colonies became the thirteen states, however, each one began to act alone in its own best interest. A new governing document was needed in order for these new states to act together.

Delegates from Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Delaware met in Annapolis, Maryland, in September 1786 to discuss states' rights. They recommended that a convention be held to change the Articles of Confederation because they recognized the need for a stronger central government.

The Constitutional Convention of May 1787 was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where delegates from 12 of the 13 states were present. The state of Rhode Island refused to send a delegate because it was afraid of losing its states' rights. The delegates worked for 4 months behind the closed doors of the statehouse to draft a new document known later as the Constitution.

Click here for The Articles of Confederation
[the Articles of Confederation](#)



Next



The Burning of the GASPEE



The destruction of the British armed schooner GASPEE, Warwick, RI, 1772. The attack on the Gaspee by RI patriots in 1772 was the first armed conflict leading to the American Revolution. The leader of the Gaspee attack was Abraham Whipple, a founding father of the US Navy. Of interest is the fact that the musket ball fired by the Rhode Islander Joseph Bucklin that gravely wounded the captain of the Gaspee is acknowledged by many to be the cause of the first firearm-related British casualty of the Revolution.



Abraham Whipple

A Commission of Inquiry was set up in Rhode Island to gather in all those suspected of violence against a Royal ship and send them for trial -- to England. But the investigation soon lost all headway, blanketed by what seemed to be a total loss of memory on the part of Rhode Islanders. Fifty-four weeks after the burning of H.M.S. Gaspee, the commissioners forwarded their final report to London. In it they detailed their labors and concluded that it had proved impossible to identify the offenders. John Brown, Abraham Whipple (left-leader of the raid), and ninety or so stout-hearted Colonists had defied the power of the British Navy and of the government that backed it.

Next

Impeachment

Impeached: to be charged with misconduct in public office before a proper court of justice

When a new president is elected to office, he or she takes an oath that lists many heavy responsibilities. Abuse of power or failure to uphold these responsibilities cannot be tolerated. The Constitution gives the House of Representatives the right to impeach the president. Impeachment means that a charge of misconduct is filed against the president. A majority of the members of the House must vote for these charges in order to impeach the president.

After the charges of misconduct are filed, the Senate has the power to try impeachment cases like a court. Two-thirds of the senators must vote for conviction. The president may be removed from office and never allowed to hold a government position again if he is found guilty.

Our 17th president, Andrew Johnson, was impeached while in office. Thirty-five senators found him guilty -- just one vote short of the two-thirds vote necessary to convict him.

President Richard Nixon resigned from office rather than face impeachment charges in the Watergate scandal in 1974. President Clinton became the second president to be impeached by the House in 1998. Later, the Senate found him not guilty.



Next

Making Laws



A "bill" is introduced when a member of Congress decides to create a new law. Any member of Congress can introduce a bill. Only members of the House may introduce bills that deal with taxes or spending. Before a bill can become a law, both houses of Congress must pass identical versions of the bill.

Once a bill is introduced in either house, it goes through almost the same process. Each bill is first assigned to a committee for review. The bill is tabled, or set aside, if the committee decides the bill is not worthy. The bill is sent to the entire house for debate if the committee decides the bill is worthy of further action.

If the bill passes, it is sent to the other house. A joint committee works out any differences the two houses of Congress have concerning a bill. When both houses agree on a bill, a speaker of the house and the vice president signs it. The bill must be signed before being sent to the president.



Next

Taxation without Representation

The issue thus drawn centered on the question of representation. From the colonies' point of view, it was impossible to consider themselves represented in Parliament unless they actually elected members to the House of Commons. But this idea conflicted with the English principle of "virtual representation," according to which each member of Parliament represented the interests of the whole country, even the empire, despite the fact that his electoral base consisted of only a tiny minority of property owners from a given district. The rest of the community was seen to be "represented" on the ground that all inhabitants shared the same interests as the property owners who elected members of Parliament.

Most British officials held that Parliament was an imperial body representing and exercising the same authority over the colonies as over the homeland. The American leaders argued that no "imperial" Parliament existed; their only legal relations were with the Crown. It was the king who had agreed to establish colonies beyond the sea and the king who provided them with governments. They argued that the king was equally a king of England and a king of the colonies, but they insisted that the English Parliament had no more right to pass laws for the colonies than any colonial legislature had the right to pass laws for England.

The British Parliament was unwilling to accept the colonial contentions. British merchants, however, feeling the effects of the American boycott, threw their weight behind a repeal movement, and in 1766 Parliament yielded, repealing the Stamp Act and modifying the Sugar Act. However, to mollify the supporters of central control over the colonies, Parliament followed these actions with passage of the Declaratory Act. This act asserted the authority of Parliament to make laws binding the colonies "in all cases whatsoever."



Next

Treaty of Paris

The Paris Peace Treaty (Sept. 3rd, 1783)

(Great Britain recognizes the independence of the United States)

The Treaty of Paris was signed between Britain and America on September 3, 1783, and provided for:

- **The recognition of American independence**
- **The establishment of American boundaries between the Atlantic on the east to the Mississippi on the west, and from the 49th parallel and Great Lakes on the north to the 31st parallel on the south (or everything east of the Mississippi except the Florida and New Orleans)**
- **The recognition of American fishing rights along the Newfoundland banks, a point sought by the New England interests**
- **The pledge of the Continental Congress to "earnestly recommend" to the states that they settle property issues with the Loyalists, a provision insisted upon by the British.**

Amid the hoopla and self-congratulation at the end of the war, one sobering fact slowly dawned on the American consciousness. The victorious nation had accumulated a massive debt – more than \$11 million in national debt and state debts of more than \$65 million. The war's cost significantly impacted later events.



Next

Definitions

Ally: to unite, to join in alliance with

Amendments: correction or improvement to a procedure or law

Annihilate: to destroy completely

Artillery: large firearms (as cannon or rockets)

Candidate: a person who seeks or is proposed for a political office or honor

Casualty: a military person lost (as by death or capture) during warfare

Checks and balances: each branch of government has some limits placed on it by another branch.

Committees of Correspondence: a group of people who would write letters that would be sent to the other colonial governments telling them what was happening in Boston.

Concurrent: both the national and state governments can exercise

Continental Congress: occurred in 1774-1789, federal legislature of the Thirteen Colonies and later of the United States in the American Revolution.

Courts of appeals: review decision made by district courts by due process.

Delegate: a person sent with power to act for another

Delegated: appointed to conduct a procedure

District courts: trial courts, evidence presented, juries often hear cases about crimes and disputes



Next

Definitions

Effusion: free expression of words or feelings

Eminent Domain: a law saying that the government can take private property for public use and the owner must be paid for the property taken

Electors: people who have the right to vote in an election

Ex post facto laws: "after the fact" makes an act illegal after it has been done.

Federalism: divides power, giving some power to the central government and some power to state governments

Hessians: a German soldier serving in the British forces during the American Revolution

Fleet: a group of warships under one command

Frontier: a region that forms the edge of the settled part of a country

Garrison: a military post

General Assembly: the legislative branch of Illinois government

Judicial Review: The authority to declare laws made by Congress or states unconstitutional.

Levied: to collect by authority or force, as a fine or tax

Loyalist: one who is or remains loyal to a political cause, government, or sovereign especially in times of revolt



Next

Definitions

Majority: more than half of the votes

Militia: a body of citizens with some military training who are called to active duty only in an emergency

Mercantilism: Between 1600 and 1800 this was essentially an effort to achieve economic unity and political control. a collection of policies designed to keep the European states prosperous by economic regulation. These policies may or may not have been applied simultaneously at any given time or place.

National anthem: the official patriotic song or hymn of a nation, sung or played on certain public occasions

Negotiation: to discuss with another so as to arrive at an agreement

Parliament: the supreme legislative body of various political units

Patriot: a person who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests

Popular sovereignty: government gets its power from the people it rules

Raid: a sudden attack or invasion

Reserved: something that is saved or set apart

Revolution: a basic change in government; especially : the overthrow of one government and the substitution of another by the governed

Segregated: to separate or isolate from others



Next

Definitions

Separation of powers: dividing power into three branches one part cannot become too powerful

Seizure: to take possession of, sometimes forcibly

Sons of Liberty: secret organizations formed in the American colonies in protest against the Stamp Act (1765)

the Supreme Court: power of judicial review, the authority to declare laws made by Congress

Traitor: one who betrays another's trust or is false to an obligation or duty

Treason: the act of helping an enemy of the U.S.

Treaty: an agreement or arrangement made by negotiation; especially: one between two or more states or rulers

Trench: a ditch protected by a bank of earth used to shelter soldiers

Tyranny: harsh and unfair rule by a king or other ruler

Writ of habeas corpus: person cannot be put in jail or prison until he or she has appeared before a judge



Next

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a draped manner.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

By Julia Ward Howe

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
He has loosed the fateful lightening of His terrible swift sword**

His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

**I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps**

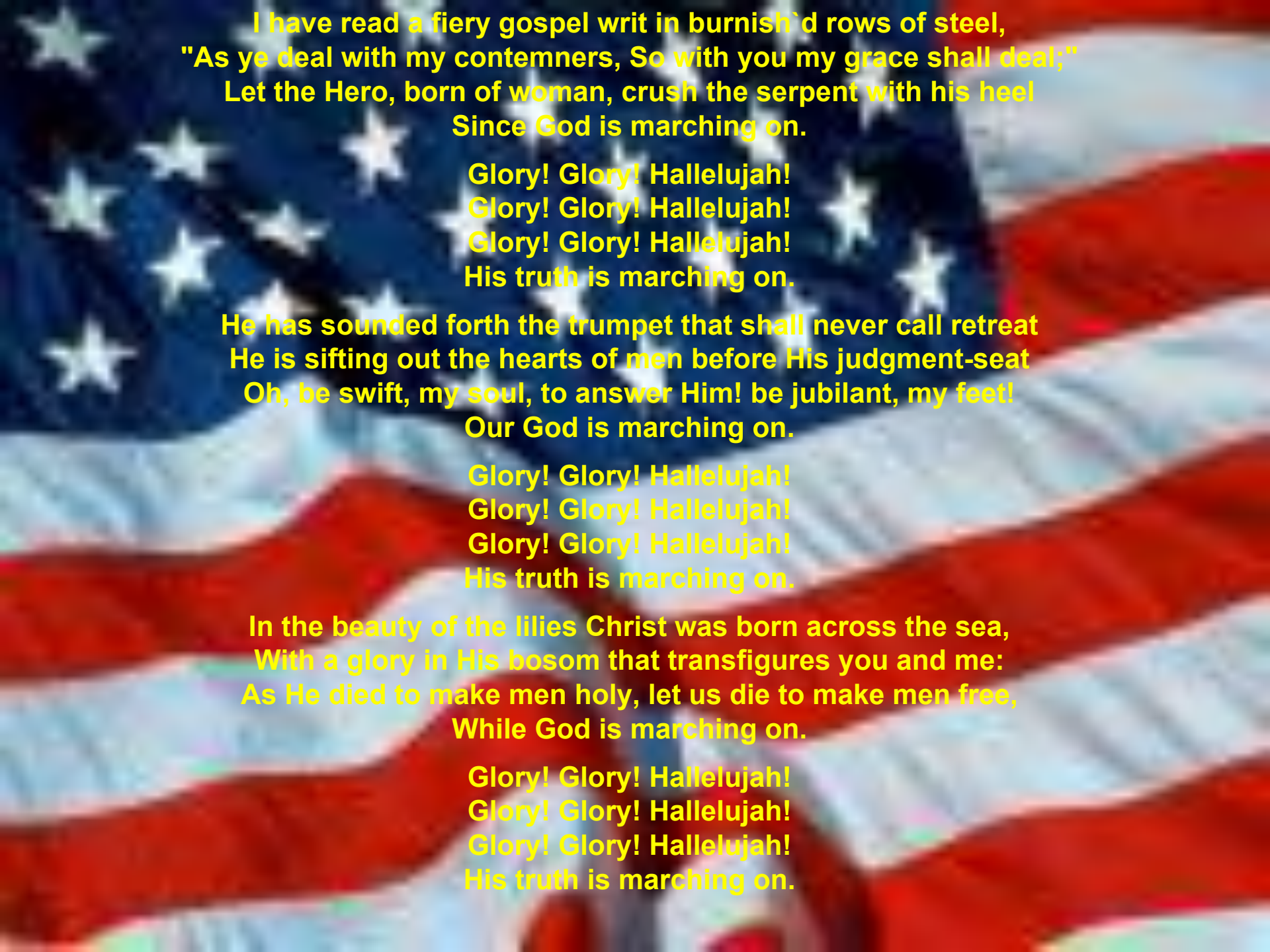
His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a diagonal pattern.

I have read a fiery gospel writ in burnish'd rows of steel,
"As ye deal with my contemners, So with you my grace shall deal;"
Let the Hero, born of woman, crush the serpent with his heel
Since God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment-seat
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me:
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.



The End